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AFP Cites Government on Reporting 3d Death

AU091913 Paris AFP in English 1911 GMT 9 May 86

[Excerpt] Moscow, May 9 (AFP) — The Soviet Government on Friday said a third person had died as a result of the April 26 Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster, the first victim of radiation exposure. Thursday, the Yugoslav news agency TANJUG, quoting sources in Moscow, had already reported that a third victim had died.

Soviet Deputy Health Minister Yevgeniy Vorobiev told a press conference of Eastern bloc journalists that the third victim, who had been "heavily irradiated" in the accident, died three days later in a Kiev hospital. One of the other two died of burns, the other was killed by a falling object, it was announced earlier.

APN's Falin Reports 4th Death

AU111306 Paris AFP in English 1252 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Hamburg, West Germany, May 11 (AFP) -- Staff at Chernobyl wrongly evaluated and reported the April 25 nuclear accident, and it took nearly two days for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to get a "detailed, factual report," a Soviet news agency chief says.

In an interview with the weekly *DER SPIEGEL* appearing here Sunday, the chairman of NOVOSTI NEWS AGENCY, Valentin Falin, also disclosed that a fourth person had died in the accident.

Service personnel had "in part failed" in their mission, as "the content and quantity of information communicated to Moscow was neither sufficient nor correct," he said. From this failing, he said, "arose a great deal of what subsequently happened." The radioactive leak, he added, was now completely smothered.

Mr. Falin also said it was "desirable that all countries using nuclear energy worked out rules valid for all" in anticipation of such accidents, and accused Western nations of hiding nuclear accidents from their people. He said a country close to the Soviet Union -- which he refused to name -- was very quickly advised of the accident, adding that the quantity of radioactive isotopes which crossed the Soviet border was not dangerous.

Indicating the death toll -- earlier officially three -- was now four, Mr. Falin said two of 18 seriously injured people had died, after the deaths of a man who was burned alive and another buried under collapsed construction units.

He reaffirmed official Soviet figures that 204 people suffered dangerous radiation higher than 100 rads, but that 50 were able to leave hospital after a few hours. A rad is a unit of absorbed ionized radiation.

Reporting that the radioactivity leak at Chernobyl is now completely smothered, he said a protective covering of sand, lead, and boron was being continually strengthened, and would be "completely covered with concrete." All reactors of the same type in the Soviet Union continued to function, but would be inspected.

Mr. Falin exonerated the local administration from responsibility for information delays, but said technicians at the Chernobyl nuclear plant "had believed with the best intention they could control the situation." But it appeared they "had been taken unawares and had not always taken the best decisions, on the whole by an under-estimation of the risks and an over-estimation of their own capacities."

After that, insufficient and incorrect data were sent to Moscow. "internally we were not prepared for such an accident, we had not basically foreseen any instructions in advance, particularly in the information area," Mr. Falin said.

Mr. Falin said Soviet party chief Mikhail Gorbachev, warned of the accident on Saturday, only had "the first detailed, factual report" before the party Politburo meeting on Monday April 28.

Don't implicate the general secretary. Before he can communicate information, he first has to have it," he added.

"about half" of the radioactive isotopes released from Chernobyl were of Iodine-131, dangerous but with a half-life of only eight days, he said. As for Casium-137 and Strontium-90, their proportions had been 10 to 100 times weaker compared to those in "emissions provoked" during nuclear tests.

"The quantity of these isotopes, which crossed the borders of the Soviet Union, raising radioactivity levels 10 to 15 times, is not dangerous," Mr. Falin said.

Mr. Falin expressed "indignation" at the way "American spokesmen and Secretary of State George Shultz" had reacted to the affair. He also charged that the West, in the United States, Britain, Japan, and Belgium, had often hidden nuclear accidents from its people.

"When there is a nuclear test in Nevada, radioactive emissions are sometimes carried by winds to Mexico, but are not spoken of because they are American," he added.

Mr. Falin discounted any evacuation of Kiev, saying that when winds had carried radioactivity towards it five days after the accident, levels were 5,000 times below danger levels, and only 30 times normal levels.

PRAVDA Details Chernobyl Party Reorganization

PM121000 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 May 86
First Edition p 8

[Special correspondents V. Gubarev and M. Odintsev report: "Raykom Working Round the Clock; Chernobyl AES: A Test of Courage" — first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] "What do I dream of?" V. Lyskin, foreman at the electric shop asked. "Of the time when we will return to Pripyat and start living and working normally. I know that time will come, but we must work unsparingly to ensure it... And let us agree that when it is all over you will hold a *PRAVDA* readers' conference at our culture center. Do you agree?" *PRAVDA* accepted the proposal. In essays, articles, and reportages we will discuss the progress in

eliminating the accident at the Chernobyl AES and the heroic labor both at the site [promploshchadka] and in the areas where the inhabitants from the evacuated zone are now living. And then, when Pripyat's inhabitants return home and the station starts working normally, a *PRAVDA* team will hold a readers' conference at the AES.

Previously the party gorkom bureau session would probably have lasted longer and, obviously, more would have been said. Now there is no time for long discussions. The situation is difficult and every minute counts. It is 10 days since the collective at the Chernobyl subsidiary of the "Yuzhatomenergostroytrans" Transportation Production Association, comprising more than 200 people, was evacuated along with the families to Polesskiy and Ivankovskiy Rayons. However, during this time the collective's leaders — Communists A. Sichkarenko and A. Shapoval — have essentially done nothing to help the people under their jurisdiction or to provide them with work. Wages have not been paid on time, clothes have not been allocated, and evacuees' legitimate requests have been ignored. Finding himself in Polesskiy Rayon among subordinates evacuated from Pripyat, A. Shapoval, the subsidiary's chief engineer, was entirely indifferent to the fate of people who found themselves in a difficult position.

Political immaturity, failure to act, and failure to understand the prevailing situation on the part of irresponsible leaders have cost the collective dearly. The Pripyat Party Gorkom Bureau resolved at its session to expel A. Shapoval from the CPSU for the callous way he tried to dodge his duties. A. Sichkarenko was strictly reprimanded and his party card endorsed. The bureau deemed it inexpedient for the compromised leaders to remain in their posts. A. Gubskiy, secretary of the subsidiary's party organization, who failed to make a timely and principled assessment of what had happened, was brought to justice.

The unusual and complex situation has highlighted bottlenecks. Certain leaders have turned out to be psychologically unprepared for work under the conditions that emerged following the AES accident. True, what happened with the leaders of the Chernobyl subsidiary of "Yuzhatomenergostroytrans" was an exceptional case. The same party gorkom bureau session cited numerous cases of selfless and courageous behavior on the part of Communist leaders who showed high organizational qualities and personal courage in a difficult situation. A. Nagorodniy and V. Deygraf from the Chernobyl Installation Administration and N. Sklyarets and V. Abramov from the Pripyat administration of "Yuzhatomenergostroytrans" were cited first and foremost. Following their leaders' example, the members of their collectives also acted decisively.

"Of the 18 Communists at the Pripyat administration only two are still at work; the rest are undergoing tests in hospital," A. Gamanyuk, first secretary of the party gorkom, said. "But this situation further rallies and organizes people."

Moreover, the gorkom secretary himself learned about the accident in hospital. Aleksandr Sergeyevich immediately left his hospital bed to head the party committee's work.

"Raykom bureau sessions have become shorter but they are being held more often. This requires efficient organization," the secretary said. "Many collectives at Pripyat's enterprises and organizations have been moved to Polesskiy Rayon. The evacuation took place on a tight schedule, and certain subunits were dispersed and people separated. In the first 10 days of May economic leaders specified and are now solving the problems linked with moving enterprise and organization personnel and with providing people with temporary work and their usual vacations [otpusk]. Party organization secretaries have established contacts with Communists who have currently been dispersed to various places. In the first 2 days at the new site 20 temporary party groups, together with party groups within the watch teams [vakhtennyye smeny] at the Chernobyl AES, were created from among Communists from the Pripyat city party organization. Their efforts were directed toward mobilizing working people to eliminate the consequences of the accident." The Pripyat party gorkom is temporarily housed in the premises of the Polesskiy Ukrainian Communist Party Raykom, and the two party organizations are now operating in close contact. The party organization of the Kolkhoz imeni 40-Letiya Oktyabrya has established the most friendly professional ties with the Communists arriving from the AES. There are 13 of them. They chose S. Rodionov, deputy secretary of the "Yuzhenergomontazhventilyatsiya" Administration party organization, as their party organizer. A joint session of the party bureau planned organizational measures to ensure the smooth running of everyday life and the organization of work for the new arrivals. Electrical welder V. Novokhatskiy has already started repairing kolkhoz equipment. A. Gorbunov, a worker from the AES, has joined a kolkhoz team on the construction of an enclosed hay store, two of which are under construction. "There is enough work for everyone," Komsomol member Sergey Stepanchuk, leader of a kolkhoz construction team, said.

Polesskiy Rayon has 13 farms. Each one of them has a staff operating to ensure normal working and living conditions for the evacuees. The staffs include representatives of party organizations both from the teams which have arrived from Pripyat and from the local kolkhozes.

Open party meetings are currently being held on each of the farms to discuss the Communists' and party organizations' tasks in stepping up mass political work and organizing preparations for gathering in and procuring this year's harvest. Rape for laying in early silage is already being mowed at the "Khabna" Sovkhoz, where a meeting was chaired by N. Priymachenko, first secretary of Polesskiy party raykom. Some 800 metric tons of rape have to be procured. Machine operators here carried out maintenance work in good time on vitamin meal preparation units. The sovkhoz stockmen are making skillful use of the green feed arriving now from the farm's fields — for example, the dairy stock unit headed by Nina Savchenko, delegate to the 27th Ukrainian Communist Party Congress, increased daily milk yields per cow in May by 1.2 kg in comparison with the same period last year.

Aware that the elimination of the consequences from the Chernobyl AES accident demands doubled and redoubled efforts from everyone, stockmen on "Vladimirskiy" Sovkhoz proposed that the pledges previously given for 1986 be reviewed, and that

milk yields per cow be raised to 3,000 kg. Polesskiy party raykom approved the patriotic initiative, which has already spread widely among the rayon's stock units.

Visiting the Kiev Oblast party raykoms in the last few days, we observed the concentrated and considered work being done by their instructors, section chiefs, and secretaries. Difficult problems are being solved with precision, without haste, and effectively. A specific and businesslike approach can be observed everywhere, in every step by party workers, and there is no superfluous talk or vague promises.

"Under these conditions," A. Gamanyuk, first secretary of Pripyat party gorkom, told us, "we have no right to allow ourselves the luxury of any relaxation. Every minute is valuable, even though the party committee is working almost around the clock. Decisions are brief and precise, their execution is swift and accurate. The situation may change repeatedly during a day or night, and every time we must be ready to act so as to successfully mobilize the Communists and to enthuse people with ardent words to overcome the hardships. There is something else that is very important for us: to ensure that under these conditions, when everything has been moved but not yet settled down completely, the collective in each enterprise finds its place and determines its line of action. Of course, much in this respect depends on the leaders, on their initiative, efficiency, skill, and boldness in making an independent and at times even risky decision, but the only correct decision under given circumstances. This is why work with cadres has top priority, as it actually always has with us...." ...The doors to the Polesskiy party raykom are open around the clock. People come there for solutions to the most urgent and most vital questions.

Council of Ministers Issues Communiques on Cleanup

9 May Statement

LD091713 Moscow TASS in English 1909 GMT 9 May 86

["USSR Council of Ministers Communique." — TASS byline]

[Text] Moscow May 9 TASS — Work to eliminate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station continued there on May 8 and 9. An intensive cooling of the reactor has been under way in order to lower the temperature of the active zone and has helped sharply to reduce the emission of radioactive substances.

Work has been carried out to shore up the banks of the River Pripyat in the area of the nuclear power station in order to prevent the radioactive contamination of the river with rain water running off from adjacent territory. The situation at the nuclear power station's first, second, and third generator units is normal.

The area of the Chernobyl nuclear power station on May 8 was visited by Hans Blix, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Soviet scientists and specialists briefed him on the situation and the measures being taken to localize the accident.

10 May Statement

PM121106 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 May 86 First Edition p 3

["From the USSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] Throughout May 10, work to eliminate the consequences of the breakdown continued at the Chernobyl atomic power station. The temperature inside the reactor went down substantially as a result of the taken measures. The opinion of scientists and specialists is that this is indicative of a practical termination of the reactor's graphite burning process. The release of radioactive substances has sharply diminished.

Work to decontaminate the territory, buildings and facilities of the power station, as well as the motor roads and other facilities located in the nearby terrain has begun on a large scale with the use of up-to-date materials and technical means.

Work is being done to additionally consolidate the reactor's foundation.

According to the data of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Monitoring the Natural Environment, the radiation level is 0.33 milliroentgen per hour at a distance of 60 km from the station and 0.32 milliroentgen per hour in Kiev, which is absolutely safe to people's health. On the country's western border, the radiation level is within the limits of the natural background.

11 May Statement

LD111717 Moscow TASS in English 1714 GMT 1 May 86

["Announcement of USSR Council of Ministers" — TASS item identifier]

[Text] Moscow May 11 TASS — Work for radioactive decontamination of the territory, facilities of the station, and transport communications has been prepared today at the Chernobyl atomic power station and nearby locality. Preparation is conducted for decontamination of residential houses.

A complex of preparatory measures is implemented for encasing in concrete the reactor compartment of the fourth power-generating set.

The radiation situation on the western borders of the USSR is normal. The radiation levels on the territory of the Ukraine and Belorussia remain the same.

Silayev, Velikhov Say Chernobyl Danger Past

LD111824 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 11 May 86

[Report over video by correspondent Aleksandr Krutov, from Chernobyl — from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Chernobylskiy Rayon: This is where the 30-km zone begins from which the population was evacuated for security

reasons. Entry into the zone is permitted only by special passes. Every house in the abandoned villages and settlements has been closed and sealed. As they left, people took all precautionary measures. [Video shows main road filmed from inside car, showing tanker coming in opposite direction, other traffic on road, sign saying Chernobylskiy Rayon, brief shot of surrounding country and road block, marked "danger zone, entry forbidden", with minibus halted, army trucks parked at side of road, uniformed serviceman questioning driver and waving him through. Road through to town filmed from car window, crossing river; truck loaded with what might be building materials proceeding ahead. Brief shot of houses as car speeds by, nobody visible, apple blossom on trees; sealed well.]

At the very entry into Chernobyl, the first thing we saw was a stork. And then, a quite lively town street. Specialists are arriving here from many towns. Canteens have been opened for them, mobile shops are coming in, from which necessary goods can be purchased. In a word, all such conditions as are possible, of course, in such a situation, have been created. [Video shows stork standing on nest on chimneypot; town street, a few pedestrians on pavement, several jeeps parked and driving along; street surface wet, pavement dry. Most pedestrians in white jackets and trousers or in uniform. Uniformed militiaman wearing a mask directs traffic, mostly buses and trucks.]

With every day more vehicles are on the streets, carrying various cargoes. Special remote control equipment for work in the especially dangerous radiation zone is being delivered by helicopter. Like this machine, for instance. [Video shows masked militiaman directing traffic, including truck with load of long metal pipes, small tanker. Close-up of parked car bearing special permit with a large red circle on windscreen; men in white jackets and trousers or overalls, walking up path to building; machine marked toro 200d (Latin script) parked outside building - four-wheeled vehicle with open cabin, excavator shovel at front, fire extinguisher at side of cabin.]

The headquarters directing the work to liquidate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl atomic station are situated in this building here. Specialists, both civilian and military, chemists, physicists, and medics, are working here; people of various specialities are engaged in the main thing, eliminating the consequences of the accident. Let's go into the headquarters and have a look at the work going on there. [Video shows Krutov, with no mask, outside building marked Chernobyl Raykom; audio includes snatches of birdsong.]

[White-coated man in office] Well, let's map out specifically which points we are to visit, let's map out [words indistinct].

[Video shows five men pouring over map in office marked "Radiological Security Group" and "Medical Point" on pencil-written notice pinned to door]

The headquarters' working day lasts from 0600 to 0100. People sometimes eat into the night, too. And here the sessions of the state commission are held. They are now being conducted by Ivan Stepanovich Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. [Video shows serious of rooms with groups of people talking, and further group consisting of Silayev and Velikhov, among others, under a portrait of Lenin.]

[Krutov] I heard Academician Velikhov say just now that a historic event occurred today.

[Silayev] Well, in the main he is right. We have come to the conclusion today that the basic, main danger has been eliminated. This is of course a historic event. Today we can already work more calmly, insofar as what the world predicted, in particular the Western bourgeois newspapers which shouted from the rooftops that a colossal catastrophe was about to happen — today this does not threaten us. We are today firmly convinced that the danger has passed. This does not mean that we can stop work. There are still very serious questions which must be resolved. These are questions relating, that is, to the further localization of this zone; questions relating to decontamination — there are still many problems. But, indeed, the main danger has been averted.

[Krutov] What can you add?

[Velikhov] I should say that the situation is like this: We really do see that today we are not threatened by the major catastrophe we feared, in connection with the fact that a large quantity of fuel and graphite was concentrated in one spot. But of course, there are still a large number of issues we must now resolve, and very quickly at that; because we must first of all measure and determine where all the radioactivity is situated, and in the fastest possible time remove such a crude [sentence incomplete]. After that it is necessary to pass to the next stage, which consists of total — well, putting it crudely — deactivation of the territory, and the conservation and encapsulation of all the radiation. Therefore, this work is as great as before. We are also carrying out a great deal of work to ensure that the radioactivity has not penetrated the water table, and we are hurrying with this. There are a lot of measurements to be taken in difficult conditions, because we do not know what is situated where. And builders are now carrying out a great deal of work because they are supplying concrete, freezing the soil, and covering all this up in conditions of high radioactivity. So the pressure is being kept up there.

[Krutov] Well, I sense that all the same you have taken a bit of a breather, haven't you?

[Silayev] No, it is, of course, too soon for us to take a breather. One might say, rather, that we have grabbed a quick breath, insofar as there is still a lot of work, as you see. But the work is gradually being taken in hand. Since the main danger has now passed we can concentrate on the issues which previously seemed to be secondary. Now these are coming into the foreground: that means decontamination, removal of the remnants, diagnosis and monitoring. And, in the final analysis, there is the solution of the problem of burying this zone. This involves, first, the very important task of putting into operation in a short time the first, second, and third sets: These are capable of operating, but a whole series of tasks must be carried out to isolate them from the fourth set. This is also a serious task which must also be resolved. There is still a lot of work.

[Krutov] These photographs are the latest photographs received from the station, are they not? [Video shows Silayev with folder of photographs.]

[Silayev] Yes, these are the latest. No, they are not the latest, the latest photographs are much calmer. Where are they? [Video shows Silayev looking through folder] Yes, let's have a look, yes, this is the latest photograph. As you see, this shows a completely calm state. You can see no smoke here, and certainly no shining spots. We will put it like this: The reactor site is calm here. This is not just a visual assessment: It has been confirmed by a series of analyses and research. This is why we have come to the conclusion that the main danger that had seriously threatened us is today behind us, and the time has come to start work on eliminating what has happened altogether. This indeed involves a great deal of work.

[Krutov] Are there enough resources and opportunities?

[Silayev] The country is giving everything necessary. We are not meeting any refusals today, no difficulties whatsoever. Everything has been mobilized — technology, materials, resources. And the main thing is that the people who, of course, to start with were wary and frightened, have today got into a normal rhythm of work. People are laboring with enthusiasm. They know they are now under no threat. They of course have to observe precautionary measures. Zones have been defined where they must not go for the time being. Signs are up. That is, they are today working calmly and know that they are sheltered. And there is a great deal of work to be done.

Velikhov: 11 May 'Turning Point'

LD111431 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] A report from Chernobyl: A headquarters of the battle waged by people against the formidable and dangerous element for more than 2 weeks is in operation here. The government commission is at work. Today, we arrived at the conclusion that the main danger has been eliminated, Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, said to TASS correspondents. Now we can work more calmly. What was predicted in the West where it has been shouted in all manner of voices about the forthcoming colossal catastrophe, Silayev said, has not happened. Today we are absolutely confident that the danger is over.

This, however, does not mean that the work can be curtailed. A whole number of complex problems are yet to be resolved. These are issues linked with the further localization of the dangerous zone, the issues of its decontamination, and others. The headquarters is elaborating a strategy and tactics for the struggle directed at eliminating the consequences of the accident. Tense collective work is underway in which high-ranking leaders, prominent specialists, and scientists are participating. Among them is Academician Yevgeniy Pavlovich Velikhov, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The academician called today a turning point. He said to TASS correspondents that the situation currently does not pose a major threat, which was feared.

A new stage in the struggle is beginning. A whole range of measurements and research is still to be carried out, and the places affected worst are to be located. All this is being done in exceptionally difficult conditions. The work on decontamination and encapsulation [kapsulirovaniye] of radiation is being carried out. When these measures are implemented and results of the research are summed up, a decision concerning resumption of work of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant will be made. When a certain period of time — which will be determined by security norms — elapses, the station will be put into operation again and will resume production of electric power. We have not only to restore the AES, but also to revive the surrounding land, to give its life force back to it, Academician Valeriy Alekseyevich Legasov added.

'Possibility of Catastrophe' Existed

LD111436 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1351 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Kiev, 11 May (TASS) — The present situation at Chernobyl AES no longer poses a major threat, Academician Yevgeniy Velikhov, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, told Soviet journalists.

The academician said that, until now, in theory the possibility of a catastrophe really did exist: A great quantity of fuel and graphite in the reactor was in an incandescent state. Now this is not the case.

Velikhov said that a new stage in the work is now beginning. It is necessary to carry out a whole range of measurements and experiments to determine the most contaminated places. All this is already being done. Work is under way on the deactivation and encapsulation of radioactive substances. This guarantees against their entering the water table.

Special work is being carried out within the unit in very difficult conditions of high radioactivity. At the moment, builders are doing a great deal. They are freezing the soil and supplying large amounts of concrete. The aim of the actions is "to bury" the broken-down reactor.

When these measures have been implemented and when the results of the investigations have been drawn up, a decision will also be made on the resumption of the work of the Chernobyl AES, said Academician Velikhov. He said that at a certain time, which will be dictated by safety norms, the station once again will go into operation and will supply power.

Kiev Radio Cites Silayev, Velikhov

WA121248 [Editorial Report] Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian at 1545 GMT on 11 May broadcasts a 4-minute report from the Chernobyl AES. Reception is very poor to unmonitorable.

The station announcer reveals that answering a correspondent's questions are Ivan Stepanovich Silayev, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman; Academician Yevgeniy Pavlovich Veli-

khov, USSR Academy of Sciences vice president; Yuriy Antoniyevich Izrael, USSR State Committee for Hydrometerology and Environmental Control chairman; and Vitaliy Andreyevich Masol, Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman, State Planning Committee chairman. None of the speakers are subsequently identified but are heard to speak in Russian.

One speaker says that "the main danger that seriously threatened us is behind us today," and the time has come to commence work to eliminate what as a whole (?took place)." Another speaker affirms that "the situation today is such that we are not threatened by any kind of catastrophe as we had feared," and goes on to talk about the tasks that lie ahead.

A discussion on radiation and the evacuation of the area around the station follows. A speaker is heard asserting that the population is taking things "with understanding," and reports that people are working with great enthusiaism in order to avoid the consequences of the accident while awaiting "impatiently for that day when they can return to their homes."

Another speaker is heard talking about the acute problems that have been faced, including the evacuation of the population to reasonably safe areas, and also about what people are thinking of doing in the future, noting that "we are thinking of how to use that land in the future" for agriculture. With reference to the latter activity, he acknowledges that very serious measurement and research must be done, in addition to the emergency work. The speaker notes that the country is supplying everything that is needed and asserts that everything is mobilized. He continues by stressing that the main thing is that the people have returned to a normal work routine following the initial natural feelings of fear, and again reports that the people are working with enthusiasm and that they know they are not threatened, although cautioning them to observe measures [not further identified due to poor reception].

Embassies in Moscow Warn of Possible Food Dangers

AU120734 Paris AFP in English 0730 GMT 12 May 86

(Milan Dragovic report)

[Text] Moscow, May 11 (AFP) — Thousands of foreigners living here have been warned by their embassies to beware of using fresh foodstuffs, in case of contamination after the Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster two weeks ago.

Most embassies here have warned their nationals not to drink milk, nor eat lettuces, while also advising them of possible radiation dangers from tap water, other vegetables and even meat. Many foreigners are following these instructions to the letter and are eating up stocked supplies of food in the deep freeze and canned goods, or they have ordered food from abroad, mainly from Finland and Denmark.

Some of those working for private foreign firms have told their head offices about their food supply difficulties, asking them to send food containers and bottled water to them in Moscow. However, all foreign medical teams, including American, which have arrived recently in the Soviet capital have formally and unanimously stated that they have not detected any abnormal levels of radiation.

Nevertheless, the "radiation panic" has gradually gripped Moscow, as more and more people arrive from Kiev, 900 kms (540 miles) southwest of here and 30 kms (18 miles) from Chernobyl.

Some of them bring alarming stories which rapidly go the rounds here, adding to rumours of possible appalling environmental consequences of Chernobyl.

The Soviet news agency TASS for the first time on Saturday mentioned the potential dangers of radiation contamination by eating and drinking.

"A series of isotypes have been discovered in analysing the radioactive waves given off by the reactor," TASS reported. "These isotypes contain iodine-131 which is dangerous as it can enter the body in food."

Many Muscovites comment "prevention is better than treatment." On Sunday, most of the city's markets supplied by Kolkhoz (state farm) goods were stocked as usual with fruit and vegetables, but there were few foreign customers. Muscovites questioned stall-owners on where their produce came from, making sure it was a long way from the Kiev region. Milk and butter, however, were in short supply in state stores, although it was not clear whether this was because of Chernobyl, or just a transport delay caused by the recent public holiday for the 41st anniversary of the end of Worl War II.

And there were practically none of the usual stalls selling meat and cheese, in Moscow's market places. But local housewives, as always, rushed to buy lettuces, tomatoes and potatoes from state shops, as they were cheaper and, many of them said, "probably safer."

Several people have reported that lorries and cars coming from the Kiev region were being stopped at police roadblocks 100 kms (60 miles) from Moscow and tested for radiation.

Only vodka and brandy drinkers seemed unworried about radiation dangers, as they started to queue up at noon, two hours before opening time, outside the "vino" shops.

TV Carries Blix, Rosen 9 May News Conference

LD092034 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1750 GMT 9 May 86

[News conference for Soviet and foreign journalists given by Hans Blix, director general of the IAEA, with Professor Konstantinov, USSR deputy IAEA director general, and Morris Rosen, U.S. director of the IAEA nuclear safety department, at the Press Center of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow on 9 May; Blix and Rosen speaking in English with superimposed announcer-read Russian translation — recorded]

[Text] [Blix] We have been invited by the USSR Government in connection with the accident that took place on the fourth power

set at the Chernobyl AES [Atomic Energy Station]. We arrived here on Monday afternoon [5 May] and are leaving in a few hours time. We flew by helicopter over the town of Chernobyl which is 18 kilometers from the atomic power station; we also flew around the atomic power station in a helicopter. We saw the damaged plant from a distance of 800 meters.

During our stay we have had an opportunity to form our own impressions of the accident. During very frank and open talks we also reached agreement with the Soviet authorities on definite measures. Before I go over to the joint conclusions which were worked out by us with the Soviet competent authorities I would like to say on behalf of the IAEA that we expressed great regret about the tragic accident, the human casualties, and the damage that has been inflicted.

We have circulated a communique which has been agreed between Petrosyants, chairman of the State Committee [for Utilization of Atomic Energy], and myself. In reply to my invitation our Soviet colleagues have agreed to come to Vienna for an analysis of the accident which will be carried out with their colleagues from other IAEA member-states. Of course, our Soviet colleagues must have sufficient time themselves to analyze the accident.

Second, we have now agreed with the Soviet authorities that appropriate data will be constantly provided by them to the IAEA for transmission by us to the radiation protection bodies of the countries concerned. That release of data for the IAEA starts today.

[Rosen] The data will be produced by the State Committee for Hydrometereology and Environmental Control, the State Committee for the Utilization of Atomic Energy, and then, daily, by telex to the Agency headquarters in Vienna. The information will consist of the following data: the coordinates of the station, wind direction, wind speed, the temperature at 0100 when the readings will be taken, and the regional weather conditions. The data will be collected from a station 68 kilometers southeast of Chernobyl, and then six other stations along the western border of the USSR, these stations being at Leningrad, Riga, Vilnius, Brest, Rakhov, Kishinev — in other words from points in Leningrad down toward the Black Sea. These stations are registered with the World Metereology Office.

[Blix] In the penultimate paragaph of our communique we have also jointly raised the idea of further international measures which might be developed within the framework of the IAEA to improve the safety of nuclear power installations.

[Announcer] Professor Konstantinov gave information about the specific measures which are being taken by the IAEA in the field of nuclear power engineering safety.

[Blix] Let me end by noting the third point in the final communique: that the Soviet side stated that the accident will not affect the implementation of the nuclear power engineering development plan. I will stop here and then ask Mr Morris Rosen to tell you the picture that we ourselves have formed of the accident.

[Rosen] I would like to begin by reading a summary description which we have prepared:

A full and authoritative description of the accident, the causes of the accident, and its consequences, can only be given by the Soviet authorities after the necessary analysis. So far only hypotheses exist about the specific causes of the accident. Data from the control room were recovered after the accident and are now being studied. In the reactor building, the equipment in it, the reactor itself, and the reactor core were seriously damaged as a result of which radioactivity was emitted to beyond the area of the AES. The chain reaction was immediately shut down at the moment of the accident. This is confirmed by the fact that medical examination of the people affected did not show that they had been subjected to high neutron irradiation. A considerable part of the radioactive release consists of short-life radionuclides. Measurements show that up to 50 percent of the release was in the form of Iodine-131. Fire teams came quickly to the site. Work was complicated, however, by the fact that neither water nor chemicals could be used. Firemen and some of the station's personnel were among those subjected to radiation. Most of the people in the neighboring areas were indoors at the time of the accident which reduced the irradiation. In the early morning of 26 April a high level of radioactivity was registered; this was reported. Evacuation began on 27 April starting with women and children. Up to 48,000 people were evacuated from Chernobyl and other areas within a 30-km radius. As a prophylactic measure, people inside and outside the 30-km zone were given potassium iodine tablets: 204 people, including the nuclear station personnel and firemen, were affected by radiation from first to fourth degree, 18 people with fourth degree. In all 204 people were hospitalized in Moscow and are receiving medical treatment. In some cases bone marrow tissue transplants were carried out.

Radioactive discharges from the damaged unit have been significantly reduced by creating a shield from neutron absorbent material — sand, boron, clay, dolomite, and lead — which were dropped from helicopters. As a result, the level of radioactivity within a 30-km zone has been reduced.

Necessary shift personnel are working on site to keep the undamaged reactors in a safe shut-down condition. The third reactor which was adjacent to the fourth was not damaged following the accident and the cooling and safety system is functioning. The damaged reactor suffered from some fires in the graphite. This burning has been extinguished, however the temperatures remain high. But criticality is not a problem. The object is to contain the whole of the fourth set in concrete and a concrete foundation is now being created under the reactor.

The maximum radiation within the 30-km zone is 10-15 milliroentgens per hour. On 5 May it had decreased to 2-3 milliroentgens per hour. On 8 May it had dropped to a maximum of 0.15 milliroentgens per hour on the perimeter of the zone. The level of radioactivity in Kiev's water reservoirs was normal at all times.

[Blix] Since we are in Moscow I think it may be proper to begin with a question from a *PRAVDA* correspondent. The question is as follows: Mr Director General, are you satisfied with the

volume and the nature of the information which you have received during your visit to the USSR?

To this question I reply unquestionably yes. We had very frank and open discussions with ministers and experts and in many cases the experts and officials are people whom we have known for a long time. We have worked out an accord with the USSR on the release of information on a continual basis. I think that this is the first step in international efforts which will require some kind of early-warning system to be set up. This is also recognized in the communique.

Next I would like to go over to questions that have been asked by correspondents from nonsocialist countries. In the light of this accident can Mr Blix outline his views on the advantages of nuclear energy over conventional power generation as far as pollution of the atmosphere is concerned, and particularly as far as the problem of the destruction of forests in the FRG is concerned?

Let me say that I personally support nuclear energy for reasons of environmental protection. Nuclear energy does not lead to emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, or carbon dioxide, which can lead to the creation of a greenhouse effect in the planet's atmosphere. In my view, therefore, nuclear energy has great advantages from the point of view of environmental protection. At the same time, among public opinion there is a certain amount of concern about the safe disposal of nuclear waste and the possible consequences for the environment as the result of radioactive fullout. And the accident at Chernobyl will without doubt teach all of us in the world a lot. It will give us some experience about the consequences for the environment and also about the methods which can be used to decontaminate the environment and deal with the consequences of such contamination.

A question from a Kuwaiti correspondent: In Kiev and Minsk there are students and postgraduates from many foreign countries, including Arab countries. Does the accident present any danger to their lives and health? We were in Kiev yesterday, and life seemed to us to be quite usual and normal. There were many people on the streets. In Kiev they were preparing for a bicycle race. We were shown a moument dedicated to the victory of world War II. We saw many tourists there. In other words what we saw proves that life is quite normal. We asked whether schools are closed but we were told quite definitely, no. I asked for more scientific replies as to what the consequences of the accident will be with regard to exposure to radioactivity throughout the area and what consequences this could have for people's health. I think I should ask Mr Rosen to comment on that.

[Rosen] We know first of all that we are all exposed to radiation in ordinary life. Increased levels of radiation may have detrimental health effects and this will be true for this accident as well. However, until one knows the amount of radioactivity released, its spread, its duration, and individual doses there is no point in speculating in figures. On the one hand we know 204 individuals were hospitalized; on the other we have been told that medical examinations of the inhabitants of Kiev including children have indicated nothing to suggest any significant health detriment.

[Blix] Has the release of radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear plant's fourth energy set completely ceased? And the second question is what is the danger of agriculture in the Ukraine from the environmental contamination and to the water table from radioactive fallout? The first question — has the radiation stopped?

[Rosen] Well perhaps I should just say for the fourth unit there is relatively little radioactivity now. The temperature is falling and the situation appears to be stabilizing. I should also note that dosimetry readings taken during our helicopter flight seem to confirm a considerrable reduction in the amount of radioactivity being released.

The second question concerns the damage to the Ukraine's agriculture. The accident area will be inhabitable again. The radioactive isotopes — and these are mainly isotopes of radioactive Iodine-131 discharged as a result of the accident — have rather short half-lives.

[Blix] The next question comes from *ZYCIE WARSZAWY*: What, in your view, is now dominant in the activities of nuclear power stations in East and West? Do you think they have more in common or do they have a variety of approaches?

[Konstantinov] I think that there are more things in common than there are differences at the present time. We know full well that any accident anywhere at any station is without doubt an obstacle and a hindrance to the further development of nuclear power engineering; but on the other hand it is a lesson which should always be taken into account during the further development of nuclear power engineering.

[Blix] What in your opinion could be done in addition to what is being done at Chernobyl to deal with the consequences of the accident?

[Rosen] I can say that a competent — a very competent — group of Soviet experts is working at the site. They have many very practical ideas and are carrying out this work now, at this very moment.

[Blix] A question: It has been reported that work is being done around the fourth power set and underneath it. What does this mean? And what kind of work is being done under the power set? Is there a danger that the radiator casing will melt through the reactor foundations? And are there any consequent fears for the water supply to the Ukrainian capital?

[Rosen] The Soviet engineers working on this problem recognize the need to take measures to eliminate the danger. They are currently considering several options for doing work under the fourth power set. This work could be done by driving a tunnel or by getting at it from the third set. The work could be done by driving a tunnel or by getting at it from the third set. The work being done now is to pour concrete into the area underneath the broken casing? [Rosen says in English "into the area below the destroyed reactor core"]. This concrete eventually will form a foundation to entomb, as it were, the whole set.

[Blix] Another question: Why is it considered necessary to enclose the power set at Chernobyl in concrete? Is there a danger that the reactor will melt into the earth?

[Rosen] The reason for making a concrete casing is to make it simpler to put a complete stop to the accident. And one can also be confident that in this case there can be no danger of a critical situation occuring again or of melting as cooling proceeds, including cooling to the level at which it will have no effect.

[Blix] A question from the *LOS ANGELES TIMES*: Will the USSR close down its other reactors of the Chernobyl type? No, during the investigation the Soviet authorities have not discovered anything which would necessitate closing down the other reactors. We have been told by Soviet representatives that measures are being taken to raise safety at other installations.

A question from the NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY: After all that you have seen and learned during the course of your visit, how could you comment on the attempts by some Western information media to frighten the public with the Soviet nuclear threat? In the United States maps of the world are being shown on television with a red spot of radiation which extends over the whole of Western Europe and as far as the continent of Asia, allegedly threatening the world's countries.

I think that you newspapermen know how the information media function in different countries. Even small incidents at nuclear reactors give rise to a great deal of talk, whether in the West or in the East. At the same time it seems to me that the media in this case and in other cases must not exaggerate. That is their responsibility, not to exaggerate, not to disseminate rumors of different kinds or any kind of information which will only worry people. I am glad that before we take off for our Vienna headquarters we have had an opportunity to reply to all your questions. Thank you for your attention.

Blix Interviewed on Cleanup, Nuclear Future

LD101156 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Hans Blix, who came to this country at the invitation of the government, on Thursday [8 May] visited Kiev and the region of the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Aleksandr Barabeychik of Radio Moscow has talked to Dr Hans Blix:

[Begin recording] [Barabeychik] Dr Blix, you have just made a trip to Chernobyl and Kiev. What did you learn there? Your impressions of the situation there?

[Blix] Well, we saw that a great deal of work is done and accomplished and directed by dedicated people, and that the situation seems to be under control, and that they are limiting the consequences of the accident.

[Barabeychik] Some Western press agencies report that there was a kind of panic in Kiev. What is the mood of the people there at present, really?

[Blix] We drove around in Kiev for some time, and the streets were full of people. We certainly did not see any signs of panic. There were also tourists at the war memorial, as there usually are.

[Barabeychik] During the last week you spent in the Soviet Union you have been meeting chief officials of the Soviet Atomic Energy Committee. What did you learn from them?

[Blix] We have discussed the accident extensively, and we have also discussed what ought to be done at the international level, in particular within the IAEA. We are, of course, interested in establishing what international measures should be taken through which the world, the whole world, can learn from this accident and thereby to improve nuclear safety.

[Barabeychik] You also signed a joint communique on your stay in the Soviet Union. What points are you stressing?

[Blix] Well, precisely these points. That is to say, what further joint international measures can be taken to improve nuclear safety. There are quite a few things that one would like to do and which have already begun to be discussed, such as early warning systems.

[Barabeychik] Some people in the West now try to generalize and cast a kind of shadow on the whole Soviet atomic power industry. Can a single accident in more than 30 years of efficient functioning of atomic power stations in the Soviet Union be regarded as a major breakdown in our technological thinking, or is it just a case of shoddy workmanship?

[Blix] There is no doubt that there is an enormous amount of competence in the nuclear field in the Soviet Union, and that this has given very great benefits to the Soviet energy supply. At the same time, it is clear that the Soviet authorities themselves do not take the accident lightly, they consider it serious. However, they need time to analyze the reasons for the accident and the cause of the accident.

[Barabeychik] What about safety standards used in our Soviet power stations? Is the reactor used in Chernobyl station inferior in any way to those used in the West?

[Blix] Experts tell me that there is one significant difference between this type of reactor and those, whether in the Soviet Union or in the West, that have structural containment buildings. Such buildings, of course, help to contain, prevent releases of radioactivity.

[Barabeychik] Would you then apply a Murphy's law — what can go wrong will go wrong — to what has happened in Chernobyl? Perhaps this is a philosophical reflection, but should mankind introduce the state-of-the-art technology in fusion, in space, to be in the forefront of knowledge in general, when the loss of life and property is perhaps an inevitable byproduct here?

[Blix] Well, most technologies have associated risks and can cause the loss of life and some, we know, have had very great environmental consequences. We have huge environmental problems in the industrialized world in particular today. They are mainly

caused by the excessive use of oil and coal for the production of electricity and for our transportation systems. In the transportation and the mining of coal, they cause a lot of loss of life. The use of hydro-energy in waterfalls, exploiting waterfalls, also sometimes leads to the bursting of dams with the loss of a great deal of life. So nuclear [energy] is not at all alone in this. I would rather say that when nuclear does not have any decontamination [as heard] as the result of accidents nuclear is probably the most lenient source of electric energy from the point of view of the environment.

[Barabeychik] So you don't think humankind can ever be pushed aside from its track of building more atomic power stations, of harnessing essentially unlimited resources of a controlled thermonuclear fusion?

[Blix] It is already clear from the statements of the Government of the Soviet Union, and it's clear from the statements of the leaders who met in Tokyo recently, that this accident will not stop the further development of nuclear power. But it is also clear that it leads to an even stronger determination to make nuclear power even safer. This is the same (?path) as you have in other technologies; aviation, for instance, is all the time becoming safer, and this is also what nuclear power should be.

[Barabeychik] Perhaps this is a bit sinister question, but do you think this misfortune at Chernobyl atomic power station helped people everywhere to better realize the possible consequences of the nuclear warfare when 50,000 nuclear charges accumulated so far can be used?

[Blix] I think we are all terribly well aware of what consequences there would be in nuclear warfare, and I don't think any one of us needs a nuclear accident of this kind in order to become better aware of it.

[Barabeychik] Dr Blix, I thank you very much. [end recording]

IAEA Expresses Gratitude for Soviet Cooperation

LD081502 Moscow TASS in English 1439 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Vienna May 8 TASS — The participants in the session of the committee for administrative and budgetary issues of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which was held here, have expressed gratitude to the Soviet Government for the invitation extended to the director general of the agency to visit the USSR in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, and welcomed the preparedness of the competent Soviet authorities to cooperate with the agency in providing information. The committee pointed out the need for a further strengthening of international cooperation in the field of nuclear security and expressed the wish that the IAEA member-countries should make proposals on that score for examination at the IAEA board of governors in June this year. The committee has examined the programme of the agency's work and budget for 1987-1988, including on such issues as cooperation of states within the agency's framework in the fields of nuclear energy, nuclear safety, the international nuclear information system and thermonuclear research.

PRAVDA Cites News Conference With Ukraine Premier

PM091706 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 May 86 First Edition p 6

[Special correspondents V. Gubarev and M. Odinets report: "From Chernobyl to Kiev; Our Special Correspondents Tell of Meeting at the Ukrainian Council of Ministers"]

[Text] A group of foreign journalists has arrived in Kiev and on 8 and 9 May they acquainted themselves with the situation in the Ukraine's capital and the oblast. They include representatives of major news agencies, newspapers, and television from the socialist countries, the United States, Sweden, Japan, Italy, Canada, Kuwait, France, Finland, and the FRG. They were given the opportunity to meet with the republic's leaders, specialists, scientists, and foreign citizens working and studying in Kiev. Our foreign colleagues visited one of the rayons in the oblast to which people were evacuated from the danger zone.

The journalists also visited the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers. A meeting took place there with A.P. Lyashko, chairman of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers, Yu.A. Izrael, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control, L.A. Ilin, vice president of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, A. Ye. Romanenko, Ukrainian SSR minister of health, and leading personnel from Kiev and the oblast.

The conversation with the journalists went on a long time. The discussion ended only after all the questions had received detailed answers and explanations. It began with the following announcement: "They have just phoned me from Chernobyl," A.P. Lyashko said, "and told me the situation now. The reactor temperature has decreased to 300 degrees, and this means that the process of combustion has ended. The radiation situation is improving."

[Question] What are your main concerns today?

"Ensuring the safety of the people living in the zone around the Chernobyl AES [Atomic Energy Station]," A.P. Lyashko said. "We are trying to take every measure to give the maximum help to the stricken [poterpevshiy] population. Those who had suffered serious radioactive contamination were immediately taken to Moscow, where they are being given medical help. People who show pronounced symptoms of sickness are being immediately hospitalized. Some 230 crews from Kiev and other oblasts in the Republic have begun providing medical services in regions adjoining the 30-km zone. The people who are at their posts looking after the AES units, and also the evacuated population have undergone medical screening for symptoms of sickness." The account of the chairman of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers painted a picture of the tremendous organizational work that is now being conducted to eliminated the consequences of the accident. In view of the fact that the Kiev reservoir is south of the AES, particular attention is being paid to water quality.

Dwelling on the evacuation of people from the 30-km zone, A.P. Lyashko reported that the population has been accommodated in the rayons neighboring Chernobyl Rayon and that the temporary migrants have been provided with housing, medical aid, and

consumer services. The victims are being given a money grant to replace possessions lost during the evacuation. Children are studying in schools and the little ones have been placed in kindergartens.

Answering the correspondents, A.P. Lyashko gave a detailed and cogent account of how the announcement of the accident at the Chernobyl AES was made as soon as the highly authoritative specialists who traveled to Chernobyl from Moscow made their "diagnosis." There can be no haste in such a serious matter and rash conclusions are impermissible. Western journalists have been able to see for themselves the falsity of the myth that Kiev was dead when they drove through its crowded, sunny streets.

[Question] Is the station going to start work, and if so, when?

"We believe that the elimination of the accident is proceeding successfully," A.P. Lyashko replied. "As soon as total safety is ensured, the station will resume work. Of course, I am referring to the first, second, and third units; the fourth will be buried. Although its machine room suffered no damage and is perfectly serviceable, it is inadvisable to use it."

[Question] What is the future of nuclear power in the Republic?

"Conclusions must naturally be drawn from this incident, but progress cannot be retarded. Man's genius placed nuclear energy at people's service. And we have to use this boon. Forty-one power units are in operation in the USSR. Ten of them are in the Ukraine. The future belongs to nuclear energy. Different countries must cooperate and exchange experience, including experience of the safe utilization of this energy potential. At the same time we must realize what tremendous forces are contained in nuclear power. So they must be used only for peaceful purposes. Events in Chernobyl are yet another reminder that nuclear weapons on the planet must be eliminated. The 15 January statement of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, sets out a clear program of action. But, unfortunately, the Western countries, and primarily the United States, are not as yet responding properly to it — nuclear weapon tests are continuing in the West."

[Question] How many people are there in the AES zone?

"We came to this meeting from Chernobyl," L.A. Ilin, vice president of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, said. "Many people are working at the industrial site at this time. Some are servicing reactor units 1, 2, and 3, others are eliminating the consequences of the accident at unit 4, and still others have begun the decontamination of the station. These include workers and engineers, physicists and chemists, servicemen and medics. Constant monitoring is being carried out. Everybody in the AES zone has been provided with means of individual protection. As chairman of the National Radiation Safety Commission I can say with all responsibility that we are carrying out stringent monitoring precluding the overexposure to radiation of the personnel and all who are currently in Pripyat."

[Question] What is the radiation situation in the zone?

Yu.A. Izrael, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control, answered: "The radiation there is not identical everywhere. In most rayons it does not exceed the permissible norms. But the task is to reliably ensure the safety of people, and that is why they were evacuated from the zone. In Kiev the monitoring organs have been working constantly, not only during the accident but also before. The background radiation increased somewhat, but not once — I stress, not once! — did the radiation level approach levels which would threaten human health. There is a similar picture in Gomel. In recent days radioactivity has declined by between 60 percent and two-thirds.

"I can add," says L.A. Ilin, "that all the radiation levels recorded in Kiev and other cities are completely safe in terms of the effect on people. Every one of us receives an incomparably greater dose from an x-ray of the teeth or the gastrointestinal tract."

[Question] When will people go home?

"After the completion of all the work to eliminate the accident," A.P. Lyashko replied. "It is necessary to decontaminate the soil, houses, apartments, and so forth. This is a very big job. It has already begun, but as yet it is hard to say precisely when it will be completed."

[Question] Is there a danger of pollution of the Dnepr and the Black Sea?

"Even in the region of Pripyat the level is within normal limits," Yu.A. Izrael replied. "We are monitoring carefully and taking samples every hour. This is the situation today. In case of rain the banks are being reinforced: A barrier is being built up [nasypayetsya val] and peat is being laid to filter the water. A very great deal of work is being done in the zone with a view to preventing all kinds of situations. Yes, we are being supremely cautious. But it is a question of safety. And therefore it is better to do too much than to omit something. The Dnepr, for the whole of its length, and of course the Black Sea, have experienced no increase in radioactivity." ...The meeting at the Ukrainian Council of Ministers helped journalists from many countries to see the events at the Chernobyl AES in a new way. They were convinced that the struggle to eliminate the accident is being conducted not only courageously but also intelligently. There should now be no unexpected or unforeseen elements in the situation...

Medical Care for Radiation Victims Described

PM081804 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 May 86 p 4

[Special correspondents N. Dolgopolov and P. Polozhevets report: "A Test of Staunchness. Confidence, Courage, and Staunchness — Qualities Displayed by Soviet People in the Critical Situation: Our Special Correspondents Report from the Chernobyl AES Area]

[Text] Kiev Oblast — Aleksandr Skorupich will always remember those moments. A senior foreman in the Chernobyl AES electrical workshop [elektrotsekh], he received an emergency call at 0320 hours. The message was curt: "Accident at No 4." He

started gathering his comrades: Almost all workers in the AES live at the Pripyat settlement. Soon they were at the power station.

Skorupich is 34 years old. He knows the AES inside out. And so he should — he has been at the station for 10 years. He grew up with it. He started as an assembly worker, and later became a repairman in the electrical workshop. His friends Petr Petrovich Kozhanov and Gennadiy Aleksandrovich Proshkin worked with him that anxious morning.

The situation had to be assessed urgently. A small group of men entered the strictly protected area [zona strogogo rezhima]. They had to do the most dangerous work....

Meanwhile Skorupich, Aleksandr Grigoryevich Oleshchuk, and Vladimir Stepanovich Lyskin were checking instruments and tackling restoration and adjustment work. They did everything within their power, and even more. Yes, those working under extreme conditions and close to the accident site did need the assistance of medical personnel. And this assistance was given energetically, skillfully, and promptly. Doctor of Medical Sciences Anatoliy Yefimovich Romanenko, Ukrainian SSR minister of health, with whom we had a lengthy conversation, feels that it could not have been otherwise.

[Romanenko] I would suggest that you write as follows: All medical personnel displayed a lofty sense of professional responsibility and great humanism and patriotism, Anatoliy Yefimovich advised us and went on to say: Hundreds of teams from all oblasts in the Ukraine were called to assist the local health service organs, each team consisting of doctors, radiation monitors, and laboratory technicians. The task was clear — to provide medical inspection and observation services. My orders for departure from the other oblasts were issued in the night. By next morning most of those who had been called had already arrived in Kiev. Those traveling overnight from the more distant oblasts arrived there within 48 hours. There was not a single instance of refusal.

[Dolgopolov/Polozhevets] Could you tell us briefly about the organization of medical services?

[Romanenko] Medical assistance was available around the clock for the entire population evacuated from the 30 km zone. Everyone was examined by doctors, everyone underwent a radiation check. Laboratory checks are now underway.

[Dolgopolov/Polozhevets] And how about hospitalization since, in some cases, such measures were probably necessary?

[Romanenko] Those who voiced even the slightest complaint involving general indisposition or stress effects have been hospitalized and are being investigated in detail. Whenever necessary they are sent to specialized institutions. I must say that patients needing specialized treatment are still in single figures. The bulk of those hospitalized are people who really experienced stress effects — the accident, the emergency evacuation, the alarm for family and relations.

[Dolgopolov/Polozhevets] Nevertheless, what preventive measures would you recommend for those living relatively near to the accident site?

[Romanenko] I spoke on this subject a few days ago on Ukrainian television. Even though the situation today is safe, we must also bear in mind the certain amount of exposure to the effects of radioactivity. I would recommend that buildings be hosed down. Why? Dust is the main carrier of radioactive elements. I would refrain from bathing in open-air facilities. Mains water should be used for this purpose, it is absolutely clean and can be drunk. How about the state of health of people who nevertheless did suffer, those injured or exposed to large doses of radiation? No one makes any secrets. Such cases do exist. It was reported in newspapers and at the press conference in the USSR Foreign Ministry that seriously ill patients had been sent to Moscow. Patients hospitalized in Kiev include workers from the Chernobyl AES and residents from Pripyat settlement. The treatment of the most seriously ill has been entrusted to Valentin Leonidovich Ganul, Leonid Petrovich Kindzelskiy, Nikolay Mikhaylovich Bondar, Era Dmitriyevna Chebotareva, Nina Alekseyevna Tomilina — specialists from Kiev's Roentgenology, Radiology, and Oncology Scientific Research Institute. These most noble people in white coats deserve words of warmth and most profound gratitude. Doctors in unrelated fields, they have worked in different positions, directions, and sectors in the past few days. But their work did have common elements. Human lives depended on the speed and correctness of decisions made by the doctors. And they solicitously took these lives in their strong and caring hands, driving the disease away and bringing the cure nearer.

We visited the patients' ward. Actually, they are already out of bed, walking along the corridors. Appetite is coming back.

There are four of them. AES workers Nikolay Migkov and Nikolay Bondarenko, student Stanislav Lobanov from Voronezh, and worker Viktor Ilyashev from Pripyat. Nikolay Bondarenko was on shift duty at the time of the accident. Nikolay Migkov returned there only a few hours afterward. Ilyashev and Lobanov, who were in Pripyat to gain practical work experience, found themselves in the danger zone by accident. They felt indisposed after the evacuation. They were immediately hospitalized and given emergency treatment at one. New methods were used for the decontamination [ochistka] of their blood. The situation improved. The point of maximum danger had passed. The patients' blood and hemogenesis are now constantly monitored. All those who suffered are surrounded by such attention — medical and human.

'Strength of Character' Shown in Aftermath

PM071340 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 May 86 Second Edition p 3

[TASS special correspondents Vladimir Itkin and Lev Chernenko 6 May reportage from the Chernobyl AES area: "Stronger Than the Atom"]

[Text] Kiev Oblast — "Where were you when the accident happened?" — we put this question to people who were manning

the control panels at the Chernobyl AES only yesterday and who are prepared to go again and work their next shift. Although the reactors are shut down, the required regime has to be maintained, "routine" work is in progress, hundreds of power workers continue working at the station, and its other services, including the accounts department, are also functioning. As usual, on pay day, people received their wages, the nuclear power workers are in the constant care of medical staff and their health is being closely monitored. Everyone is conscientiously doing his job.

"During the accident most Communists displayed true heroism," Gennadiy Alekseyevich Karyaka, deputy secretary of the Chernobyl AES party committee, said. "Having assessed the situation realistically, people acted selflessly, no one ran away, no one refused to do his job, everyone was doing their duty." "When I saw what had happened at the No 4 power unit I rushed to my work station without thinking about the danger," Nikolay Grigoryevich Polishchuk, senior foreman in the power hall, told us. "The cables were under water. It was necessary to ensure the back-up power supply and to activate the transformer which had dropped out."

"People were working with no thought for themselves. Having received medical aid, Aleksandr Grigoryevich Lelichenko, deputy head of the power hall, refused to be hospitalized and returned to his hall. He worked right up to his last bit of strength and was sent to the hospital only the next day. Their sense of duty and awareness of the danger which an accident can produce guided the actions of the Chernobyl workers who joined in the struggle against the terrible force. They now say that they did not experience fear. An "emergency" situation arose, the very situation for which nuclear power workers must always be prepared, irrespective of the outwardly tranquil, measured rhythm of their routine, day-to-day work. And during those minutes they displayed not only their experience and professionalism but also their human qualities.

They were also thinking about the families and children left at the settlement. As for foreman Vladimir Stepanovich Lyskin, he had his son with him — they were working side by side, repairing damaged power equipment. Army training had taught his son Yevgeniy not to lose his head in a complex situation — he had come to work at the AES after his service with the missile forces. The father's experience and the son's youthful courage merged in a common cause at the difficult moment. Lyskin's wife was also at the AES, she was on duty at the pumping station. The family of nuclear power workers are ready even now to continue their watch at Chernobyl.

Like a family hit by misfortune is how the collective of the Chernobyl nuclear power station has accepted what has happened. The reactors have been shut down and it is now no longer the station which supplies people with energy, it is the people who are giving their energy to the AES. Dealing with the aftermath of the accident is not easy. And it is important for the Chernobyl power workers to know that their families are safe, that arrangements have been made for them. Immediately after the accident the Pripyat settlement was evacuated. The power workers' families are now settling in at new places. Preparing for their next shift, workers at the AES receive news from their families.

"My family has been evacuated to Ivankovskiy Rayon," foreman Anatoliy Konstantinovich Ponamarev told us. "My family is in Polesskiy Rayon," senior operator Ivan Afanasyevich Sologub joined in. "My son is attending the same kind of vocational technical school there."

However, not all workers have as yet heard from their families. And it is not easy to establish contact with them immediately; after all, tens of thousands of people have been moved to different places. Naturally, this is causing anxiety. However, the AES workers on duty in Chernobyl know that care will be taken of their near and dear ones. They know that there is a force more powerful than the energy of the atom. It sustains us at the time of difficult trials. This is the strength of the Soviet character. The selflessness of those who combatted the accident, of those who continue to work at the station right now, the composure of those who were forced to leave their homes, the warmth with which Ukrainian families are welcoming the evacuees, and the assistance which the Chernobyl people are receiving from the whole of the republic and the whole of the country — these are vivid manifestations of our character.

Dozens of telegrams are currently arriving at the Chernobyl AES. "I request permission to take part in clearing up the aftermath of theaccident," Mikhail Petrovich Tsvetayev, a retired experienced radiation monitoring expert, writes. The inhabitants of the villages where the evacuees are being settled are applying to rural Soviets to make sure that they are not forgotten, that they too are allocated a Chernobyl family. People are prepared to lend a helping hand, to share everything they have. In order to eliminate the consequences of the accident, this is no less important than the technical solutions. In the difficult situation which we are confronting for the first time, what is needed is not just experience and knowledge, but also strength of character. And people are displaying this with honor.

Newspaper Readers Offer Help to Victims

PM081312 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 May 86 p 4

[L. Kurin report: "A Measure of Sympathy, A Measure of Kindness" — first paragraph is *KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA* introduction]

[Text] "We are ready to help!" — These are the opening words of our readers' communications with the editorial office today.

"Hello, editorial office? This is V. Vasilyev, deputy secretary of the Komsomol Committee at the Oskol Electrometallurgical Combine. The Komsomol and young people's collective named for the 19th Komsomol Congress has decided to work 1 day to help the victims of the Chernobyl AES accident. Where can we send the money?"

Yesterday alone the editorial office was asked many such questions. Pupils at the No 7 School in the City of Balashikhi near Moscow organized a subbotnik and decided to transfer the funds they earned to the victims. Vitaliy Polnikov, a driver at Moscow's No 4 Motor Vehicle Combine, offered help for the fastest possible elimination of the consequences of the accident....

We got in touch with Y. Danilov, first deputy chairman of the Union of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Executive Committee, who told us that money for the fund to help the population in the Chernobyl AES area is to be remitted to current account No 700 624 in the name of the Union of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies at the (Mosgosbyudbank) [expansion unknown] (code No 191 016 for those outside Moscow).

It was already evening when Moscow painter Ashot Karapetyan called at the editorial office. "The way Western propaganda is now behaving in connection with our misfortune is very insulting and worthy of indignation," he said. "In my view, it is immoral to mock as people in the West are doing. This is a great sorrow for us, and I perceive it as my personal sorrow. This is why I have just remitted R200 to the fund to help the victims."

Offers of Foreign Assistance Noted

PM081247 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 May 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Humane Sympathy"]

[Text] The Soviet Government and various organizations and departments in our country continue to receive expressions of sympathy and offers of assistance from foreign citizens and public organizations and private companies abroad in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl AES. A telegram from New Zealand doctors advocating the prevention of nuclear war, signed by Doctor (Ya. Prayor), says, in part: "We offer our support and assistance if they are needed. We hope that the event will serve the cause of uniting all people on earth for the sake of attaining the goals that face us all." In a telegram to Academician Ye.I. Chazov, Soviet cochairman of the "International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War" movement, (J. Geiger), president of the influential U.S. organization "Physicians for Social Responsibility," and Doctor (Zaydel), leader of the U.S. Association of Public Health Organizers, write: "We express our sympathy to Soviet people at this difficult time and we are prepared to give any assistance." These are just two of the many telegrams that have come from abroad in the past few days. Such apposite, humane sympathy over what has happened cannot fail to arouse feelings of sincere appreciation among Soviet people.

TASS Cites IZVESTIYA on Regional Situation

LD081726 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1530 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Moscow, 8 May (TASS) — *IZVESTIYA* today publishes a reportage by its correspondents on the situation in the Chernobyl AES region.

...[TASS ellipsis] The village of Razvazhev, one of the 17 localities of Ivankovskiy Rayon, which has given refuge to those evacuated. The local kolkhoz, 'Ukraina,' gave presents on 1 May to 200 children, who arrived in Razvazhev with their parents, while 6 May was particularly memorable to the new settlers: They collected their first wages at their new place. In another rayon of Kiev Oblast — Polesskiy — the evacuees were accepted into 58 localities; in Borodyanskiy Rayon into 18 localities. Nine villages in Makarovskiy Rayon also gave refuge to those afflicted by misfortune.

Life goes on and people are settling in. In Polesskiy Rayon, 50 percent of evacuated schoolchildren turned up for studies on the first day. On the second day there were already 90 percent. Now all children are studying. The youngest are in kindergartens.

But events in Chernobyl have reflected not only upon the life of the oblast but also on the whole countenance of ancient Kiev. As a purely prophylactic measure, and not because of the condition of the air over Kiev, the street trading of pastries, ice cream, juices and bottled water is forbidden. Thousands of hawkers' stands for ice creams, pies, and juices have disappeared from the streets. Now these commodities are only being sold indoors. In such instances it is better to be "over-insured." The population regards such prophylactic measures with complete understanding. At the recommendation of doctors, and without sparing water, the streets are being watered in the most careful way and all highways are being cleaned.

At markets, everything which is being brought in from the suburbs is being checked by radiation monitors. Milk products are being examined with particular care. Only the "OK" given by specialists allows a product to pass to the shops' shelves. However, on the vegetable and meat counters, as previously, there are mountains of greens, and meat and fat. As always, there are many people under the arches of the markets. But the question "where did you bring this from" is now posed not merely for the start of a conversation on the merits of the goods on display.

The republic's anti-epidemic station now has more than enough to do, V. Vetchinkin, the head of its chief administration said. Public health specialists have been given the task of monitoring the quality of foodstuffs, water purity and of reorganizing trading.

At airports, railway and bus terminals there are strict dosimetric controls to be passed through by people departing, V. Vetchinkin continued. Other precautionary measures are being taken with regard to foodstuffs. Temporary, and, I would like to stress, very strict standards have been introduced in the republic for the quality of all farm produce.

People are interested more than anything else in the problems facing parents whose children go to school, the problems of providing the evacuated population with everything they need, and how the decontamination of people and clothing has been organized.

The schools in Kiev do not currently look as they usually do. In the playgrounds and sports areas there is not the usual hubbub of crowds of children. The teachers make sure that the children do not go outside. The schoolchildren themselves, too, are aware of the medical people's recommendations. But in this situation the thing they are most worried about is whether the summer holidays will start early. This, naturally, is of interest to the parents, too.

As A. Tymchik, chief of the Kiev City Executive Committee People's Education Directorate stated to TASS correspondents, schools are working according to an established regime. There are as yet no decisions to reduce the school year. Of course, there are not a few difficulties to overcome.

We are also occupied with resolving the problem of summer vacations for schoolchildren in pioneer camps, and in work and leisure camps. As soon as the situation finally becomes clear we will of course notify the whole population about this.

V. Starunskiy, the Ukrainian SSR minister of trade, announced that in the regions where those evacuated had been accommodated, the feeding of people and the sale of bread and macaroni products, barley, butter, fruit juices, mineral water, clothes, footwear, bedding and other necessities has been organized. Distributing provisions is constantly being monitored by the ministry.

The prime task of representatives of services personnel in the circumstances which have arisen is the decontamination of people, of their clothing, V. Zhegulin, deputy minister of consumer services of the republic, said. In regions where those evacuated have been accommodated, sanitary-cleaning points and stations for the decontamination of clothing are operating, either mobile and stationary.

Moscow TV Carries Report From Pripyat Sanatorium

WA091600 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television in Russian at 1700 GMT on 9 May, in its regular "Vremya" newscast, following a repeat of the USSR Council of Ministers' communique on Chernobyl, carries a report from a sanatorium, said to be "not far from the town of Pripyat." The reporter says that a group of workers and specialists have returned today after having carried out operational repair work at the Chernobyl AES. The video shows men playing guitars, chess, or reading newspapers. One of the men describes conditions at the sanatorium as being "quite good." At the conclusion of the report a caption identifies one man as "chief physician of the dispensary:" He says "medical examinations, measurements, radiation monitoring and blood analyses are being carried out thoroughly and repeatedly. These people come to us for 2 weeks, for the time being, so that repeated examinations of their health can be carried out."

U.S. Uses Chernobyl in 'Anti-Soviet Campaign'

LD111750 Moscow TASS in English 1725 GMT 11 May 86

[" 'Cave Men's Code' Is Not for the Present Epoch" — TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 11 TASS — By TASS military writer Vladimir Chernyshev:

Washington persists with an anti-Soviet campaign, in which it resorts to various fabrications and insults directed at the USSR. Taking advantage of the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station, the United States opened fire on the growing international prestige of the Soviet Union, the very idea of confidence among states. They in Washington declare that the USSR is not to be believed, that it is impossible to conduct negotiations and, moreover, conclude agreements with Moscow. They in the White House went so far as to accuse the Soviet Union of "uncivilised conduct".

What is it all about? As is known, there were 151 accidents at atomic power stations in 14 countries from 1971 to 1984, and never did they in Washington make an uproar. And now certain circles in the USA need a campaign of fear and hatred. They need it to play down the importance of the Soviet peace initiatives and practical actions, such as the Soviet Union's proposal to create an all-embracing system of international security, the programme for the elimination of nuclear armaments by the year 2000 and ridding the world of other types of weapons of mass destruction, the Soviet Union's unilateral moratorium on any nuclear explosions that lasted for many months and other such actions. This campaign is needed to distract the attention of the world public from the United States' actions that are dangerous for peace and that clearly cannot be described as civilised.

They in Washington, ignoring the realities of the nuclear-space age, act and think according to the "cave-man's code" that was invented in Washington, too. "Nuclear stick", "space stick", "laser stick", such "highly civilised" terms are much used by U.S. leading politicians. The sample of Washington thinking is, for instance, the dream of ensuring for the United States the possibility for achieving unilateral control of space and then establishing domination on earth with the use of most up-to-date achievements of science and technology.

By what else but the bluntness of a cave-man who intruded upon a civilised society can one explain the declarations of "star wars" apologists that having created space laser weapons the United States would have "the longest stick in history"? How can a civilised man talk with zeal about how a ramified SDI system will make it possible to hit cities and fields planted with crops of the other side and to cause the damage which can roll back an industrialised country to the level of the 18th century within half an hour? And it is those in the USA who are creating space strike arms that like to talk in such a way.

They in Washington can hardly be unaware of the fact that the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes is the path of mankind's progress. And though there are thorns on this path, man's inventiveness, work and patience will make it possible to overcome natural difficulties. Meanwhile, certain persons in the USA refuse to admit the fact that the nuclear arms race is a clear regress, the threat to the very existence of civilisation on our fragile planet. The United States brought the world to the brink of nuclear catastrophe more than once, both deliberately and by chance — in connection with the accidents involving U.S. nuclear weapons, as well as technical errors, defects and faulty signals in the U.S. systems of the warning of a nuclear missile attack. As many as 630 incidents involving nuclear weapons or dummy warheads were registered only in the U.S. Navy within 20 years.

The whole world knows about crashes of planes of the U.S. Air Force equipped with nuclear bombs, the incidents involving U.S. strategic and medium-range missiles. Because of errors of detec-

tion equipment and computers, they in Washington were about to push the nuclear button more than once and then established after a lapse of some time that it was a false alarm.

All this, regrettably, has taught the U.S. authorities nothing. They continue heaping up nuclear arms. Having stockpiled over 25 thousand units of nuclear ammunition they plan to manufacture another 17 thousand units of the latest ammunition, weapons of mass destruction. Washington is blocking any Soviet peace initiatives, refuses categorically to end nuclear explosions, speeds up the programme of "star wars", is pushing the world to nuclear abyss and is using any achievements of scientific and technical revolution for the creation of weapons of mass destruction.

The U.S. Administration is ignoring the inexorable fact that the new level of automation in military technologies is a new step to war, the increase of the risk of its chance outbreak. It is not for nothing that American Senator Paul Tsongas once suggested, as a grim joke, that a computer controlling the U.S. Armed Forces be elected a President of the USA. It is a sad joke for it reflects the concern over the dangerous plans of the U.S. Administration. For during the implementation of the U.S. "star wars" programme a situation would be created when decisions of principled importance, decisions that are irreversible for the possible consequences, would actually be made by electronic machinery, without the participation of human reason, political will, without the consideration for criteria or morality. Such developments could lead to universal disaster even if the initial impetus resulted from an error, a miscalculation, a fault of highly complex computer systems.

Spreading allegations and falsehoods about the accident at the Soviet atomic power station, they in Washington who orchestrate propaganda hullabaloo clearly miscalculated. Fanning up allegations about the accident which is insignificant in its scope as compared to the menace with which nuclear war, the nuclear arms race, creation of space strike arms are fraught, they showed the Washington's "cave-man's code" is utterly unacceptable for the nuclear-space epoch and poses mortal danger to humanity.

IZVESTIYA Cited on Lessons for Nuclear Arms Race

LD081550 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1454 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Moscow, 8 May (TASS) — Everything is coordinated in a close-knit world. Political lessons may be drawn from a technical accident. As an unexpected example Chernobyl has confirmed the vital necessity of new political thinking in the nuclear age, writes *IZVESTIYA*'s political observer Stanislav Kondrashov in the newspaper today. When speaking about such thinking one has in mind first and foremost a new general approach to the madness of the nuclear arms race, which does not strengthen but weakens the security of its participants, because genuine security cannot be achieved exclusively for oneself to the detriment of others. The misfortune of Chernobyl has as it were extended and concretized the field of the practical application of this thinking.

New political thinking in a narrowed and interdependent world demands as a minimum greater understanding between the East and the West, S. Kondrashov stresses. Understanding is impossible without a common language. It is a question, of course, of the language of international political intercourse. It should be comprehensible to the other side, take into account the nature of the other society, take into account, perhaps, another attitude towards information in the context of another social psychology, even another speed in its distribution. Chernobyl has posed the question, with new acuteness, of the search for a common language between two different societies — the socialist and the capitalist. The search should be a common one, it should presuppose tenacity and a great sense of urgency and mutual compromises. We are ready for such a search and affirmed our readiness from the rostrum of the 27th Congress of the CPSU.

Of course, this reasoning does not apply to inveterate anti-Soviets working, as it were, in automatic mode. There is no common language to be found with them. They have no language, but a poisonous sting, which has frequently been demonstated in recent days. They become particularly zealous over the ocean, spreading frightening rumors and fabrications. "A human tragedy should not be turned into a political game," stated Geoffrey Howe, British minister of foreign affairs, a few days ago. But it is precisely in this that various malefactors have been engaging, undertaking in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl AES yet another mass-scale attack on Soviet peace initiatives, trying above all to sow doubts regarding our plan to save the world from nuclear weapons by the end of the 20th Century.

To the honor of the world community, and also of official circles in the West, there nevertheless proved to be more who sympathized, showed understanding, who expressed readiness to help, and who found the right moral and political measure in judging what has happened, stresses the observer.

BULGARIA

Foreign Ministry Rejects Western 'Disinformation'

AU092015 Sofia BTA in English 1736 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Sofia, May 9 (BTA) — The mass media in Holland and other Western countries are circulating reports that the People's Republic of Bulgaria has allegedly failed to release any information on radiation levels in this country after the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

Today, May 9, the ambassador of the Netherlands to Sofia, Mr Johan Faber, was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he was notified of the serious concern expressed by the Bulgarian side in this connection. Apart from the official announcements published in the Bulgarian press and boradcast on national radio and television on May 4, 6, 7 and 8, Ambassador Johan Faber, in his capacity as envoy of the country presiding over the commission of the European communities, was additionally briefed on the level of radioactivity in the People's Republic of Bulgaria at meetings in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on May 4, 6, and 9 this year. The ambassador was told that such reports disinform the Western public about the real state of affairs on such an important matter, something which could lead to a deterioration of economic, tourist and other relations between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the West European countries.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Underground 'Antiatom' Protest Reported Developing

AU091257 Vienna KURIER in German 9 May 86 p 5

["Exclusive Report": "Fear and Protests Against Nuclear Power"]

[Excerpt] In the CSSR a citizens' initiative going by the name of "antiatom" has developed in the underground, which operates under the Damocles sword of the authorities. It informs people on postcards that another 12 nuclear reactors are to be put into operation in the CSSR in the next few years, some of them in the immediate vicinity of residential areas and without any biological shield. The biggest nuclear power plant, in Temelin, the protest card says, will constantly emit gigantic quantities of Moldau water in the form of radioactive steam. Apart from that there is also the problem of final storage of the radioactive waste.

HUNGARY

Grazing Halted in Some Areas; Food Uncontaminated

LD101002 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0430 GMT 10 May 86

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Hungarian foodstuffs remain uncontaminated even after the accident at Chernobyl. This unambiguous statement of affairs is made by Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Laszlo Papoczi in an interview with Istvan Matko, published in *MAGYAR HIRLAP*.

The subject of the interview is the EEC countries' ban on the purchase of certain foodstuffs from seven socialist countries. The article stresses that it is measurable and can be proven that Hungary has not been touched by the radiation effect harming foodstuffs. Thus, if Hungarian goods need to be withheld for any reason then these goods would not be allowed to be consumed domestically either, Istvan Matko writes. Food producers are constantly informed about the situation and, if needed, measures are taken as well. For example, in some areas grazing has been stopped as a precaution. I quote here the deputy minister's statement that milk processed and sold by the state and cooperative milk industry may be consumed with complete safety.

POLAND

Tourism Continues Despite Heightened Radioactivity

LD080853 Warsaw PAP in English 0719 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Warsaw, May 7 — As PAP learned at the Main Committee of Physical Culture and Tourism, preparations for the tourist season, including the reception of foreign guests, were proceeding without disturbances.

The temporary occurence of heightened radioactive contamination of the atmosphere and an increased level of radioactivity did not pose and are not posing any threat to human health. All of the organizers of tourism in Poland, including travel and airline offices, are realizing, without limitations, the agreements signed with foreign and domestic contractors and are providing the agreed programme of stays in Poland. Appropriate service is also secured for individual tourists.

Urban Says EEC Meat Import Ban Not Justified

LD091753 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1700 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The EEC decision to ban meat imports from Poland cannot be justified on the basis of the contamination levels published by our country, government spokesman Jerzy Urban told a representative of the REUTER news agency. The spokesman pointed out that the IAEA — a UN agency — has accepted the detailed Polish report. Therefore, the EEC decision is even less understandable, especially in view of the fact that Poland carries out checks on exported food. The politically discriminatory nature of the Common Market decisions is indicated by the fact that the import ban concerns only the majority of the socialist countries whereas physical contamination knows no political boundaries. Plants and animals cannot be more contaminated because they grow and live under socialism, said Jerzy Urban.

Denounces EEC Ban on Polish Imports

LD101143 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1005 GMT 10 May 86

[Report on press conference addressed by Polish Government spokesman Jerzy Urban; date and place not given]

[Text] We begin with a statement by government spokesman Jerzy Urban.

[Begin recording][Urban] The EEC has decided to ban the meat imports from Poland. The alleged radioactive contamination of meat has been used as a pretext. Today a decision is to be made whether the ban should encompass other than meat food products.

We consider the decision as unjustified from the health point of view. No meat has been contaminated in Poland sufficiently to harm human health. This also applies to other food products, excluding fresh milk which is not a subject of export. There were recommendations issued in Poland that children and pregnant and nursing women should not eat leafy vegetables cultivated in open fields, but the recommendation is becoming outdated. It was issued as a precaution, out of the conviction that it is better to sustain economic losses than to expose even one child to health hazards.

The halting of exports from Poland is an insult to Poland's highest scientific authorities in many domains. With highest precision, scientists have established a strict system of food control and recommendations expressing concern for consumers. It also insults the UN bodies, the IAEA and WHO, which confirmed Polish measurements of contaminations and stated that in principle there has not been in Poland any threat to health arising from the temporarily increased radiation. Food in Poland is the subject of inspection, and it is additionally inspected before being exported.

The fact that the ban on meat imports to EEC countries affected only socialist countries proves that the radioactive contamination is regarded only as a pretext for introducing politically motivated obstacles. Similar, and sometimes higher contamination than in Poland was observed in Sweden, Finland, Austria, Italy and many other western countries. But these countries have not been included in the ban. For these reasons, Poland considers the discriminatory steps in international trade as an expansion of political restrictions, this time under the pretext of care for health.

Since the end of 1981 alone these political restrictions have affected Polish agriculture and Polish exports and other areas. Besides, we see the EEC decision as a trick based on unfair competition. Even the temporary halting of imports of Polish food products favored by consumers leads to the permanent ousting of Poland from the market. There was a similar situation in 1981 as regards Polish coal, when some Western countries supported strikes in the Polish mining industry, and subsequently took Poland's place as coal suppliers to West Europe.

Poland is repaying its debts. The creditor countries should be sensitive to our solvency through the normalization of trade and financial relations with Poland. Instead, they create new restrictions striking at Polish food exports to the West valued at about $1 billion annually.

I regret that the EEC countries, breaking human solidarity, are preying on common all-European concern created by the contamination of the atmosphere and soil, and under this pretext are striking at Poland and its interests.

On this occasion I want to say that yesterday Radio Free Europe reported that the EEC spokesman in Brussels stated that the authorities in People's Poland applied to that organization for the delivery to Poland of surplus milk and other food. The spokesman assumed that the Polish authorities fear the consequences of human consumption of Polish milk and other food produced in Poland because of their contamination. The authorities' request was delivered through a nongovernmental relief organization.

This is all untrue. It is untrue that Poland is in need of food in general, and asks for food because its own is contaminated, and it is untrue that Poland applied for any help. Poland did not apply for any help, Poland simply bought for cash some quantities of needed powdered milk and asked some Western countries to facilitate the purchase and delivery in a short period, in connection with the urgent need.

In such way, a usual purchase caused by the situation is firstly used against us as a proof that Polish food is contaminated, and also a false impression is created that Poland needs charity assistance, food assistance.

[Unidentified speaker] Does the Polish Government intend to submit a claim for damages?

[Urban] That is a premature question for the moment. We are awaiting the second EEC decision — we do not know what the decision is going to be yet. Then we shall examine the situation, estimate the losses and we shall then take appropriate decisions. [end recording]

Jerzy Urban also replied to questions from Guenter Schubert, a journalist of the West German ZDF television network.

EEC's Ban Termed 'Political'

LD111938 Warsaw PAP in English 0536 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Warsaw, May 9 — The Executive Commission of the EEC decided Thursday [8 May] to halt imports of meat from most European socialist states, including Poland.

The meat concerned is fatstock, beef, port, lamb and horse meat and venison. A possibility of blocking imports of other articles is being considered, among others, fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy products, fresh water fish, horses, sheep and calves, poultry and rabbits and even snails and frog legs.

What end does this decision serve? It is doubtless that this decision is not subject to concern for the protection of health of Western societies but to political aims. The "policy of pretexts" is practised in relation to Poland not for the first time and it is

not the first case of setting up barriers for socialist states and East-West economic cooperation.

We perfectly well understand the anxiety which is stirred by the possibility of procurement and consumption of contaminated food. We ourselves keep our society informed in detail and recommend appropriate procedures to be followed. Meanwhile, Western mass media, without any grounds, accuse us of concealing information on the degree of contamination in Poland. This is countered by precise numerical date carried in the Polish press. Is the West reluctant to notice them?

The truth is quite the opposite from what some Western countries would like it to be. It was precisely in the interest of the buyers of our goods, through concern for Poland's prestige as a good supplier that even before the EEC introduced restrictions against Poland we ourselves had introduced rigorous inspections of exported goods supplying them with certificates of compliance with radioactivity norms.

Since May 6, sanitary inspections were carried out by various specialized institutions on radiation levels in all Polish ports and two border check points at Swiecko/Slubice and Zebrzydowice. They cover external checks of ships, cars and railway carriages and all the goods they contain. The results of checks are confirmed by Polcargo tests. Only goods with radioactivity levels below 0.15 milliroentgens/hour are cleared for shipment. Any confirmation of higher levels causes the goods to be stopped.

Poland informed the buyers of her goods about all these activities. Our surprise and anxiety over the EEC decisions is the greater. The more justified is the question whether the thing was in the interests and protection of the health of consumers in some Western countries or whether it was an occasion to jump at the opportunity of eliminating Poland from Western markets and setting another difficulty by the West to hamper the repayment of the Polish foreign debt.

Every month our country exports food worth about 40 million dollars only to the EEC markets themselves. The alleged radioactivity of Polish products, which can so easily be checked by the contractors of our goods, is only a pretext.

And, by the way, would the question why the restrictions did not touch, for example, Sweden, Denmark or Austria in which countries the radiation was not lower than in Poland, be groundless?

This is probably where the answer is hidden, namely, that the real aim of the restrictive measures taken against Poland was a wish to make use of the arising opportunity to eliminate Poland from the markets of the EEC. Other countries, which do not belong to the West European community, have not introduced such restrictions, limiting themselves only to stricter inspection of Polish goods.

What is also meant here is an attempt to create a situation in which Polish goods would be deemed as of poor quality. And if that is the case then why were Polish goods thus far bought so eagerly by residents of Western Europe. Everything points to the fact that the "policy of pretexts" has surfaced once again.

YUGOSLAVIA

Slovenes Protest Chernobyl, Nuclear Station Plans

LD102121 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1936 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Ljubljana, May 10 (TANJUG) - Several hundred young people gathered today in Ljubljana, capital of the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia, to express their opposition to radioactive pollution of the planet and the planned construction of nuclear stations in the country.

A statement by the "forcibly contaminated and insufficiently informed population of Slovenia", addressed to the Slovenian, Yugoslav and Soviet governments, was read out at this protest rally, organised by the republican and city socialist youth organisations.

The statement, which most strongly condemns the late and sketchy information in connection with the Chernobyl accident, demands that in future the Soviet Government should provide without delay all information essential to the effective protection of the effects of the disaster.

The protesters also sharply criticised the way the public had been informed about the Chernobyl accident by the competent organs in Slovenia. They wanted to know who was responsible for dalying the initial information on the immediate dangers. The Slovenian Government was asked to set up a commission to determine the extent of the damage and to lodge a request for compensation with the Soviet Government or a competent international court.

The participants in the rally also demanded that the Yugoslav nuclear programme, including all technical data and lists of proposed Yugoslav and foreign contractors, should be made public and that the Assembly of Yugoslavia should proclaim a moratorium on the construction of nuclear power stations. The only Yugoslav nuclear station is in Slovenia, near the small town of Krsko.

Reportage of EC Efforts To Ban SFRY Food Exports

No Need for Restrictions

LD092140 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1549 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Belgrade, 9 May (TANJUG) — According to an announcement from the Federal Secretariat for Information, the Federal Executive Council has discussed and approved a report from the interdepartmental working group of experts on measures and activities in connection with the accident at the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl. It was assessed that the measures and activities undertaken to protect the population are timely and in keeping with the specialized and scientific criteria applicable to such a situation.

Dr Branko Pocek, director of the Institute for Health Protection, who heads the interdepartmental working group of experts,

informed the Federal Executive Council that detailed investigations by specialized organisations, including aerial photography, indicate that the degree of radiation in the country is constantly decreasing.

In no part of Yugoslavia has the degree of radiation been anywhere near the intensity which would pose a danger to the state of health of the population, and there is therefore no cause for concern.

The recommendations of the WHO on the basis of assessments of the contamination in Europe and the preventive measures taken fully coincide with what has been undertaken and is being undertaken in Yugoslavia.

The Federal Executive Council positively assessed the preventative measures taken to protect the most vulnerable section of the population — small children and pregnant women. Taking all these facts into consideration, the Federal Executive Council assessed that there are no reasons to restrict the importation of agricultural and food products from Yugoslavia and has informed its partners in the EEC of its stance.

Certain other questions of the current economic policy and Yugoslav relations with other countries were also examined.

No Grounds for EEC Ban

LD091653 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1530 9 May 86

["A Ban on Exports of Yugoslav Meat to the EEC Would Be a Political Decision" — TANJUG headline]

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 9 May (TANJUG) — If the European Community [EC] adopts the proposal to ban imports of agricultural products from Yugoslavia on the basis of the assessment that these products could be contaminated by radiation, it would be an impermissible discriminatory measure, and one which would inflict great economic damage on our country. It is certain that it would have political implications, with undesirable political consequences, Ranko Radulovic, head of the Yugoslav delegation for negotiations with the EC, told a TANJUG reporter.

We anticipate that the "Twelve" will not adopt such a decision, he stressed, in light of the documented evidence on no such danger of radioactive contamination of Yugoslav agricultural products exists. It has been proved that the level of radiation in Yugoslavia following the Chernobyl disaster is no greater than that recorded in other European countries. For example, it is even below that in Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria or the FRG. In certain parts of Yugoslavia, such as the coastal region, no presence of radioactive particles has been registered at all. In Yugoslavia, strict measures of control and prevention are being applied. And finally, experts from the World Health Organization have stressed that there are no grounds for limiting imports from individual European countries.

TANJUG Reports 'One-Sided' Ban

LD102139 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2104 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Brussels, May 10 (TANJUG) — The European Community (EC) tonight agreed to ban the import of fresh agricultural produce from six Eastern European countries and Yugoslavia, a spokesman for the European Commission, who had previously told journalists that there would be no ban, announced. The ban went ahead owing to a late change of heart of Italy and France, it was said.

The ban, which will apply to all fresh produce and livestock from these countries, will remain in force until the end of the month. The commission will discuss the situation on May 20 when it may propose certain changes. The ban was imposed to prevent the entry of products which might be contaminated as a result of the nuclear accident in the Soviet Union, it was said.

The EC decision, which will cause at last 15 million dollars damage to Yugoslav exports, is a one-sided act because it clashes with the provisions of the cooperation agreement between Yugoslavia and the EC and disregards the preventive measures taken by Yugoslav authorities. The commission's first proposal did not envisage a ban on Yugoslav produce because Yugoslavia had taken the same preventive measures and kept their partners informed as the members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), the spokesman said. But subsequent insistence by some countries, however, tipped the scales and the ban included Yugoslav exports as well.

No EC Accord Yet

LD111919 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1725 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Brussels, May 11 (TANJUG) — The European Community (EC) member-states have still reached no accord on banning fresh food and livestock imports from six Eastern European countries and Yugoslavia, as an EC Commission spokesman confirmed here today.

The spokesman said the talks on the ban and common radiation levels permitted in foods would continue today. He said in the event no consensus on the food import ban was reached today, the matter would be decided by the EC foreign ministers in Brussels tomorrow.

The proposed measures, as the EC Commission spokesman said, can take effect only if agreed to by all twelve community member-states. Italy does not accept the draft agreement on banning the import and on joint control of radioactive pollution of foodstuffs and farm produce within the EC because it believes that the section of the agreement dealing with inter-EC trade would directly impair Italian exports.

At the EC Brussels meeting of experts, Italy demanded that the standards on the maximum permitted radioactivity for fruits and vegetables should be raised from the suggested 350 becquerels (bq) per kilogram to 1,000 bq per kg, while for milk and dairy products the 1,000-bq limit would be lowered to 250 bq, other-

wise in compliance with Italian regulations. Lower radioactivity limits for milk are sought by Bonn because the southern sections of the F.R. of Germany, like Italy's north, (both major milk producers and exporters) were hit by radioactive pollution more badly than any other EC areas.

In the first proposal of the European Commission, Yugoslavia was not on the list of the countries affected by the ban. A Commission spokesman had explained that the EC was satisfied with the food and livestock control measures undertaken by Yugoslavia since these measures are identical with those taken by the members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), who are not affected by the ban.

A late proposal to ban meat and other foodstuff imports from Yugoslavia came at the insistence of France, Italy and the Netherlands. The cooperation agreement between Yugoslavia and the Community provides for all disputes being settled by mutual agreement. In this particular matter, the EC did not even bother to contact the Yugoslav side.

A possible EC decision to ban the import of fresh food and livestock from Yugoslavia would be a unilateral decision that would cost Yugoslavia at least 15 million dollars in exports. The Yugoslav Government announced on Friday [9 May] that there was no reason whatever to limit the import of Yugoslav agricultural produce because it was not contaminated. All Yugoslavia's EC partners have [words indistinct] of this fact.

TANJUG on Consequences of Ban

LD111945 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1841 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Belgrade, May 11 (TANJUG) — In Belgrade it is believed that the decision of the European Community to ban the import of Yugoslav agricultural produce, allegedly because of its radioactive contamination, would be an unfounded discriminatory measure and would jeopardise the fundamental principles of the agreement on economic cooperation with Yugoslavia. For it is known and proven that the degree of radiation in Yugoslavia after the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear station has not been above that registered in other European countries. The degree of radiation in Yugoslavia is even lower than, for example, in the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands.

The decision on a ban on the import of fresh food and livestock from Yugoslavia would cause Yugoslavia great material damage while the specific propaganda drive being conducted against Yugoslav tourism would produce unforeseeable consequences, it is stressed here.

In Belgrade it is pointed out that the EC decision, which would follow the unjustified accusations against Navip's plum brandy and the increasingly frequent and unfounded anti-dumping procedures against Yugoslav producers would beyond all doubt carry a certain political weight. It would hamper the forthcoming continuation of negotiations between Yugoslavia and the EC on the extension of the trade provisions of the agreement on economic cooperation which is planned for the end of June. It is known, namely, that almost all Yugoslav proposals and requests for more liberal exports to the EC market have met with the rejection of the other side.

It is recalled here that Yugoslavia is the only Mediterranean country whose "sensitive" industrial products are subject to import restrictions on the EC market. Of the 6.5 billion dollars or so worth of the average annual volume of commodity exchange with the European Community, Yugoslav exports have been fluctuating around the 2.7 billion dollars mark. This has been maintaining for years the high Yugoslav trade deficit. At the same time, it is stressed in Belgrade that the EC decision would not make it easier to repay the Yugoslav convertible debts which are for the main part concentrated in the countries of the "Twelve".

Nation's Press Lauded for Chernobyl Reporting

LD112105 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1800 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Our correspondent Aleksandr Shakin reports from Belgrade:

In recent days, Belgrade newspapers have been carrying regular reports from our town of Zhlobin, Belorussia. There are 570 Yugoslav specialists, fitters, and engineers working at a large metal combine project there. Zhlobin is situated not far from Chernobyl, and the attention of the press to the current state of affairs at the project is not surprising. I am quoting newspapers: "Life has returned to absolutely normal," "Work is going on," and "No reasons for alarm." This is how the situation in Zhlobin is seen here.

I have visited the management office of the Komgrap Building Combine whose collective is now working in Belorussia. (Radovan Penovic), a management representative, has told me that permanent communication is being maintained with the group working in Zhlobin. Judging by the reports we receive here, (Radovan Perovic) said, the situation at the project is normal: all are at their working places and work is proceeding according to schedule. The timeliness of the work pleases us.

The staff of health of our comrades in Zhlobin does not cause concern. We receive regular health information from Soviet doctors. By the way, a group of Yugoslav medical experts is now there, too. All of our specialists have undergone health checks and no problems have been recorded. I have been to Zhlobin more than once, (Radovan Perovic) noted, and I must say that one of the best industrial installations, in the opinion of specialists, has been built there. The first stage has been completed in record time, 2 months ahead of schedule. I think that now, too, work will be conducted at an accelerated pace, the management representative concluded. They have been writing and talking here about the events at Chernobyl and information has been fed from everywhere. Against the background of reports from Western agencies, which are deliberately distorting the situation, and creating an atmosphere of fear and unease among people, the latest news in Yugoslav newspapers speaks of the stabilization of the situation and of the absence of any health hazard.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Decision on Soviet Food Ban Postponed

NC101035 Paris AFP in English 1032 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Brussels, May 10 (AFP) — The European Economic Community Saturday [10 May] postponed for five hours a decision on whether to ban certain food imports from the Soviet Union as a result of the April 26 Ukrainian nuclear disaster, EEC sources said here. The decision on a ban covering imports of goats, live sheep, fresh water fish, fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products had been expected at 1100 GMT Saturday. The announcement is now to be made at 1600 GMT.

The decision was put off at West Germany's request, to enable Bonn officials to study new proposals from the European commission concerning radioactivity norms, made after a reunion of experts Friday here, the sources said. France decided Friday to act unilaterally to ban food imports from the seven countries, arguing that the EEC's action was proceeding too slowly.

On Thursday the European Commission announced that imports of meat, live cows and pigs were suspended until May 31. The decision was taken in accordance with the Commission's powers concerning the Community's common agricultural policy.

AUSTRIA

IAEA Reports Authorities 'Very Cooperative'

AU071718 Paris AFP in English 1705 GMT 7 May 86

[Excerpt] Vienna, May 7 (AFP) — Soviet officials are being "very cooperative" with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director-general Hans Blix, in Moscow to look into April 26 Chernobyl accident, an IAEA spokesman said here Wednesday [7 May]. Mr. Blix is accompanied by two experts — a Soviet and an American — who are gathering information on the accident, which according to the Soviet authorities, killed two and injured 197.

The IAEA chief arrived in Moscow Monday and was met by members of the Soviet State Atomic Energy Committee and nuclear experts, the spokesman said. He was not yet visited Chernobyl, 133 kilometers (83 miles) north of Kiev, and the duration of his visit is not yet known, the spokesman said, adding that Mr. Blix would hold a news conference on his return here.

BELGIUM

Prime Minister Reports on Anti-Contamination Action

LD091446 Brussels Domestic Service in French 1422 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The government has issued a statement on the consequences for Belgium from the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Prime Minister Wilfried Martens first condemns the fundamental loophole in the international legal system that allowed the USSR to not report the accident on its own. In Belgium, as soon as an increase in radioactivity was detected, safety measures were strongly increased, but the critical threshold, says Wilfried Martens, was never reached, neither for the atmosphere, nor for foodstuffs or drinking water.

Wilfried Martens also emphasized the particularly strict safety measures in force in Belgium — the strictest measures in the world, he states, as far as the construction of nuclear power stations is concerned.

On emergency plans in case of an accident, Wilfried Martens specified that a general plan would soon be drawn up, and a permanent monitoring network would soon be formed. In addition, a permanent coordination center is currently nearing completion. Of course, a great deal of questions were posed by the senators, who are concerned about the public confusion produced by contradictory information released by the authorities. Some MPs even suggested that a commission of inquiry be set up.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Demonstrators Protest 'Concealment' of Effects

LD101452 Hamburg DPA in German 1147 GMT 10 May 86

[Summary] Munich 10 May (DPA) — Over 15,000 people took part in a demonstration today in Munich against the Wackersdorf nuclear reprocessing plant and the construction of further nuclear power stations. Speakers addressing the peaceful demonstration accused the authorities of concealment of the true extent of the effects of the Chernobyl reactor catastrophe. Many participants spontaneously joined the kilometer-long procession through the city center.

Chernobyl Elicits Criticism of Bonn Policy

WA121250 [Editorial Report] The debate in the FRG on the Chernobyl accident and its consequences have turned from criticism of Soviet information policy to censure of the Federal Government and the Laender for their "inadequate and unsatisfactory" information policy and measures in response to increased radiation data in the regions.

Cologne ARD Television Network carries a special program at 1905 GMT on 5 May an unattributed report over video — describing the confusing action and information. "the chaotic information policy caused confusing and partly erroneous headlines in the media" which in turn "confused the people even more". The people were also said to be irritated by the "expert gibberish of scientists. Too much incomprehensible information came down on worried citizens," and the "terminology chaos" was accompanied by "divergent content." Typical, says the report, was the "danger ceilings for milk. Thus, the Federal Government established a ceiling of 500 becquerel per liter," a level "also adopted by Baden-Wuerttemberg, Bavaria, Bremen, and Rhineland-Palatinate, whereas Berlin used a ceiling of 100 becquerel, and Hesse a mere 20 becquerel per liter.

The situation is similar concerning leafy vegetables. While the Federal Government, Berlin, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Bavaria,

Bremen, and Rhineland-Palatinate stipulate a ceiling rate of 250 becquerel per kilogram, it is as low as 50 becquerel in Hamburg. Hesse and North Rhine-Westphalia have not even established ceilings, nevertheless declaring that of the Federal Government as being too high. The mishaps, the report goes on to state, began with the telephone information services set up by the Laender governments. In North Rhine-Westphalia, for example, callers could not get through and hung up because no answering service had been provided to tell them that their call had been relegated to a "waiting loop." Meanwhile, experts, scientists, and physicians were on telephone duty in Duesseldorf "around the clock." The authorities, the report sums up its findings, "had not anticipated such a flood of inquiries. They were totally unprepared."

Mainz Television Network in its "Heute-Journal" program at 1945 GMT on 5 May reports that the vegetable growers of the Schifferstadt area were caught totally by surprise when the Baden-Wuerttemberg government ordered all leafy vegetables on the wholesale market confiscated. Farmers complained that the authorities could have spared them "considerable losses" had they issued the confiscation order "prior to the vegetable harvest." In the same program, SPD floorleader Hans-Jochen Vogel attacks the Federal Government for its information policy in general and lack of coordination with the Laender in particular, denouncing the seperate meeting of environment ministers of the "CDU-governed Laender" and flatly demanding that Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann "convoke all environment ministers and responsible ministers of the Laender for a meeting in Bonn" to improve the flow of information.

The Frankfurt/Main *FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU* of 6 May also has gained the impression "that Bonn's information policy of the past few days was not abreast of developments. Criticism was advanced even from the coalition's own ranks." Former interior minister Gerhart Baum, FDP, says in the Mainz ZDF Television Network's "Heute" newscast at 1700 GMT on 5 May and in Hamburg ARD Television's "Tagesthemen" program at 2030 GMT on the same day that, owing to "irritating, contradictory information" the people "did not know how to implement in practice the recommendations" of the authorities.

According to Axel Wernitz, SPD, chairman of the Bundestag Interior Committee, the criticism of Bonn's information policy in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster also dominated the interior committee's special meeting on 5 May. Wernitz, who appears on the "Tagesthemen" program, says that the "information policy of the past few days was inadequate and unsatisfactory," which "came to light during the discussion." SPD Bundestag Deputy Bernd Reuter notes in the same program that the authorities were "not at all prepared for such an accident and offered a picture of helplessness."

Kohl To Write Gorbachev Over Chernobyl Data

LD091330 Hamburg DPA in German 1232 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Bonn, 9 May (DPA) — On Friday [9 May] the Federal cabinet under the chairmanship of Federal Chancellor Kohl decided to request a special session of the IAEA board of governors in Vienna for next week as a result of the reactor accident in the Soviet Union. Government spokesman Friedhelm Ost told the press that the federal chancellor also intends to write a letter to the Soviet party leader Mikhail Gorbachev to urge him to immediately furnish comprehensive information on the reactor accident which has not yet been forthcoming.

The Federal Government would also press for a conference among all 26 states which operate nuclear power stations, said Ost. The Federal Government is willing to host it. Minister of Agriculture Ignaz Kiechle (CSU) will discuss speedy aid for the farmers affected by the accident with regional ministers next week, Ost announced. Claims for compensation from the Soviet Union were not discussed at Friday's cabinet session.

East Europe Vehicles Checked at Border for Radiation

LD091209 Hamburg DPA in German 1136 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Bonn, 9 May (DPA) — Approximately 12,000 vehicles arriving from East European countries, including nearly 7,000 cars, have so far been checked for radioactivity levels at the Federal Republic's eastern borders. The Federal Interior Ministry also stated today that 244 trucks and 45 cars were turned back. Seventy-five cars and 194 trucks have been decontaminated to eliminate radiation. This also applied to 13 out of 42 coaches that were checked.

Firm Sells Remote-Controlled Devices to USSR

LD111016 Hamburg DPA in German 0930 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Karlsruhe, 11 May (DPA) — Kerntechnischer Hilfsidienst GmbH (Nuclear Technical Auxiliary Service Company Ltd) has sold special equipment to the Soviet Union in connection with the Soviet reactor accident at Chernobyl in the Ukraine. As Gerd Brudermueller, director of the enterprise, said today (Sunday) in answer to questioning from DPA, three remote-control manipulators, including tracklaying vehicles, [as received] were flown last (Saturday) night to the USSR. The price was not disclosed.

Specialist personnel from Kerntechnischer Hilfsdienst are to fly to the USSR to brief Soviet experts. Brudermueller, however, pointed out that his colleagues will not be involved in any salvage or repair measures to the damage reactor. This was a matter for Soviet specialists.

Rejection of EEC Radiation Levels Explained

LD101617 Hamburg DPA in German 1339 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Bonn, 10 May (DPA) — The Federal Republic refuses to agree to the maximum levels of 1,000 becquerels per kilogram of leafy vegetables and 500 becquerels per liter of milk proposed by Brussels for trade within the EEC because the limit for leafy vegetables is too high. According to Federal Health Minister Rita Suessmuth (CDU), since the deadline for a decision lapsed today the ec foreign ministers will now have to find a solution.

At a press conference in Bonn today the minister also rejected a demand by Hesse for maximum levels for meat. The high individual readings for iodine 131 and caesium 137 found in cattle and sheep in hesse are no reason to diverge from existing practice.

The incidence of very high levels in individual cases has already been taken fully into account by the radiation protection board in its earlier considerations.

Frau Suessmuth said pregnant women need not be concerned. In particular, the recommendation to terminate pregnancies is not scientifically justifiable.

Hesse Finds 'Astronomically High' Meat Radiation

LD091654 Hamburg DPA in German 1543 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Wiesbaden, 9 May (DPA) — In Hesse radiation has not merely contaminated milk and vegetables to a high degree but meat also. During examinations of animals for slaughter, "almost astronomically high levels" were measured of iodine 131 and caesium 137, Armin Clauss (SPD), social affairs minister [for Hesse], reported this evening in Wiesbaden.

According to this report, the Hesse Food Inspectorate [word indistinct] established up to 17 million becquerels of iodine 131 and up to 3.3 million becquerels of cesium in the thyroid gland of a deer. In sheep, the top readings for iodine 131 reached more than 760,000 becquerels, and in cows over 300,000 becquerels. Thyroid glands while of course not eaten, are still "important indicators," Clauss said. In the muscular tissue of animals for slaughter a radiation contamination from 250 up to more than 4,000 becquerels was found in about half the samples. There was also up to 180 becquerels of cesium 137.

Clauss demanded that the Federal Government finally set limits for meat and meat products. If Bonn does not alter its "scandalous policy of playing down [the danger]," Hesse will protect its citizens by its own measures. After forbidding the import of meat and meat products from Eastern Europe, the Federal Government must also eliminate dangers emanating from German and West European foodstuffs. In a telegram to Friedrich Zimmermann (CSU), the Federal interior minister, Rita Suessmuth (CDU), the Federal health minister, and Ignaz Kiechle (CSU), the Federal agriculture minister, and the Federal Health Authority in Berlin, the Hesse social affairs minister announced that if the Federal authorities set no limits, he will decree 250 becquerels of iodine 131 and 100 becquerels of cesium in fresh meat as the highest safe levels in Hesse.

Introduces Radiation Limits for Meat

LD101810 Hamburg DPA in German 1735 GMT 10 May 86

[Excerpt] Frankfurt, 10 May (DPA) — Hesse today introduced radiation limits for meat — the first Federal state to do so. Social Minister Armin Clauss (SPD) made this decision after the Federal Government had considered such a step to be superfluous.

According to a Social Ministry spokesman, the limits are fixed at 200 becquerel for iodine-131 and at 100 becquerel for cesium-137. Pork and poultry are exempt from this provision, which is fixed by a decree of the competent authorities. According to his ministry, Minister Clauss said that Hesse's maverick action is a "consequence of the scandalous inactivity of the Federal Government."

Community Vote on Food Imports Blocked

AU101519 Paris AFP in English 1516 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Bonn, May 10 (AFP) — West Germany Saturday said it would temporarily block a vote by European Economic Community (EEC) countries on whether to ban certain food imports from seven Eastern bloc countries. West German Health Minister Rita Suessmuth said Bonn did not accept recommendations made Friday by the European Commission on the norms used to measure radioactivity in goods traded within the community. EEC foreign ministers will now review the proposed ban on Monday, she said.

The EEC vote, which was postponed to 1600 GMT Saturday at West Germany's request, would end protective regulations imposed unilaterally by Bonn and other governments and ask member countries to rely on existing export controls on community goods.

But Bonn does not accept the minimum radiation level of 1,000 becquerels per kilogramme recommended by the Commission for Community Trade in spinach and lettuces, Mrs. Suessmuth said. The minimum radiation level recommended by West Germany for the products is 250 becquerels per kilogramme. Bonn made its decision Saturday after consulting with state representatives, the minister said.

Government 'Regrets' Lack of EC Sanctions Decision

LD111820 Hamburg DPA in German 1722 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Bonn, 11 May (DPA) — After a meeting of the state secretaries of the Federal Government departments concerned, government spokesman Friedhelm Ost said today that Bonn regrets the failure of the EC meeting in Brussels to agree on a ban on importing fresh foodstuffs from Eastern Europe and on uniform radiation limits for milk and leafy vegetables.

He stressed that an EC level agreement was not frustrated by resistance from the Federal Republic. Bonn is still prepared to accept the package originally proposed by the EC Commission to halt imports from Eastern Europe and to set a uniform limit for radiation exposure of 350 becquerel for fruit and vegetables. The measures taken by the Federal Government ensure that, pending an EC regulation, contaminated fresh foodstuffs from Eastern Europe will not reach the Federal Republic.

FRANCE

France Unilaterally Bans Bloc Food Imports

AU091849 Paris AFP in English 1845 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Paris, May 9 (AFP) — France Friday [9 May] decided to act unilaterally to ban imports from seven Eastern bloc countries ahead of Saturday's expected European Economic Community (EEC) vote on a community-wide suspension, the French Ministry of Agriculture announced here. The ban covers imports of meat, dairy products, fresh water fish, frogs, snails, fruit and vegetables, that may have been contaminated by fallout from the

Chernobyl accident, the Ministry said, adding that community action was proceeding too slowly.

EEC-member governments were due to vote Saturday morning on suspending imports of goats, live sheep, fresh water fish, fruit, vegetables and dairy products from the seven countries. Imports of meat, live cattle and pigs have already been suspended by the EEC executive commission. The EEC ban had been initiated by France to end protective restrictions imposed unilaterally by EEC countries. But a vote on the imports not under the jurisdiction of the commission has been postponed twice since Wednesday.

The countries affected by the ban are the Soviet Union, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia.

Greens Accuse Government of Withholding Information

AU091446 Paris AFP in English 1426 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Paris, May 9 (AFP) — France's "Greens" ecology party Friday [9 May] accused the authorities of withholding information from the public about radioactivity levels in France after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and demanded the resignation of the government official responsible.

The environmentalist group called for the removal of Pierre Pellerin, head of SCPRI, the scientific information department at the Health Ministry, whom they accused "of irresponsible behaviour". "In France, the leadership continues to keep the population in ignorance about radioactivity levels," the group said, accusing the government of "lying by omission".

The party said there had been several cases of abnormal radioactivity levels in France after the April 26 accident in the Soviet Ukraine, and called for the creation of a top level independent authority for nuclear safety. The Chernobyl disaster should lead to a "rethink" of the entire French nuclear programme, the largest in the world with 44 nuclear power stations providing two-thirds of the country's electricity, the "Greens" said.

The French nuclear industry is "dangerous and vulnerable" they added. They also called for a halt to the commissioning of the new Superphoenix fastbreeder reactor near the southern city of Lyons, which they termed "the most dangerous site in France."

They urged a new radical energy savings policy to allow a 30 percent cut in energy use and to bring other energy sources into service.

The "Greens" and four other ecologist groups later went to the Health Ministry to demand information on the exact levels of radioactivity registered in France over the past two weeks. Mr. Pellerin said no special medical precautions were envisaged in France and he attacked what he called "panic, even hysteria, which has no relation to reality."

He added that apart from France, only Britain and Spain were keeping their heads and observing standards laid down by European agreements on the question of imported goods. He said radiation to which the French population had been exposed was less than "one tenth of the natural annual exposure" and was "equal to what one can be exposed to during a two-week stay in the mountains." He said "no particular chemical activity significant for public health had been detected" in milk or food.

Authorities Criticized

LD101515 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 10 May 86

[Excerpts] The Greens have been silent in France until now, but things have been changing in the past 48 hours. The ecologists are intensifying their criticism. Let us start with Prof (Robert Berraud) interviewed by Radio France Lyon. According to tests made by him the radioactivity levels in France are as high as those in Germany. Here he is:

[Begin recording] [Berraud] The main result is that we observe in the samples taken from rainwater, from milk or from the oil quantities of iodine 131 and cesium 137 much greater than in those in the piped water, which means that this is radioactive fallout caused by raining the last few days. The fallout has not yet reached the water table.

[Unidentified correspondent] Soon we may fear that piped water may also become contaminated.

[Berraud] Through infiltration it is obvious that in the final analysis this fallout, the rain, will infiltrate and little by little reach the water table. But here time and the life of the radioactive material also matter, so certain elements can gradually disappear through decay. It is clear that, depending on meterological conditions, these amounts of radioactive elements will vary, upward or downward, according to the weather, and it is up to the officials in charge of civilian defense and doctors and biologists to say what is to be done about it.

[Correspondent] Do you feel that civilian defense has fully done its information work?

[Berraud] Yes, I feel it is doing its work well but not necessarily that of informing. [end recording]

Another scientist though, Yves Lenior, mining engineer and scientific advisor of Greenpeace, goes even further. He says purely and simply that the absence of information is a breach of democracy. Here he is interviewed by Michel Forgit:

[Begin recording] [Lenoir] We feel that this is purely and simply a breakdown of democracy, because a public service that gathers information and figures, instead of publishing them, is merely publishing a commentary on this information by transforming a considerable amount of figures — there are 200 data collecting centers — into information of the kind that says radioactivity is dropping, or people were subject to something equivalent to 15 days holidays in the mountains, and so forth.

[Forgit] When scientists like yourself ask for information, do they obtain it or not?

[Lenoir] No, no, not even these higher placed than we are, and

those who are in such institutions such as the Atomic Energy Commission have been ordered to supply us with no information [words indistinct] [end recording]

The man directly in question in this affair is Professor Pellerin, who is the top man in charge of security regarding nuclear energy. Michel Forgit has met with him:

[Begin recording] [Pellerin] There has never been a dangerous threshold. There has been a noticeable and important rise for several hours, a day, in the atmospheric radioactivity, and now we have returned to an almost normal situation, and there will be no ban on the use of French products. Average radioactivity in France is between one third and half, depending on the region, of what it was elsewhere.

[Forgit] You have been reproached for not communicating the figures of readings taken in France. Is that correct?

[Pellerin] I am with you in order to make them known. We have never refused to provide information. We have taken hundreds of readings; we have sent on average 40-50 telexes every day from our headquarters to AFP and all sorts of other agencies. Time is simply needed for this information to filter through. Moreover, this is technical information which, I agree, is not easily understood by the wide public and maybe by the journalists too. Now all is on the way to becoming clear. The people will soon see on television, if the graphs and maps I am showing are presented, that we have concealed nothing. In fact, we have nothing to hide. [end recording]

This is what can be said this morning. The main thing is that the polemics are now affecting metropolitan France. It is obvious that there will be developments in the coming hours.

ITALY

Craxi: Situation Will 'Return to Normal' Soon

AU101512 Rome ANSA in English 1043 GMT 10 May 86

[Excerpt] (ANSA) Rome, May 14 — Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi said that the situation in Italy should "return to normal" in a few days, following the April 26 nuclear disaster at the Soviet Chernobyl power plant. The prime minister made his statements after meeting with his cabinet yesterday do discuss the measures which have been adopted to face the increase of radioactivity in the atmosphere and on farm products. These measures have been viewed as excessive by some and insufficient by others.

Craxi went on to say that the situation has already returned to normal in Sardinia and Sicily and if wind currents do not bring any new radioactivity "clouds", then the nuclear state of emergency could end shortly.

The statements by the prime minister followed a day of conflicting points of view expressed by government and scientific groups. A note from the National State Alternative Energy Commission (ENEA) said that the increase in radioactivity in Italy, resulting from the Chernobyl incident, was only twice the "natural" level of radioactivity and that data saying that the increase was one hundred times the normal level were "simplistic and not exact."

Before the ENEA note was released, two physicists from the University of Rome physics department, Gianni Mattioli and Massimo Scalia, held a press conference during which they maintained that the italian authorities have only released partial data on the levels of radioactivity. "We are compiling others, much more alarming, based on much more reliable tests". The two physicists went on to say that the high levels of radiation to which the Italian public has been exposed, will results in thousands of cases of tumors and leukemia over the next twenty years.

Another alarming statement was made yesterday afternoon by Professor Giovanni de Maria, a chemical physics professor at the University of Rome who is also the director of the Center for High Temperature Chemical Thermodynamics for the National Research Council and an advisor for Euratom in reactor safety. According to De Maria, the 17 meter thick "dome", made of sand, lead and boron, which the Soviets have placed over the Chernobyl reactor, to suffocate the blaze, risks collpasing. The result would be the release of a new "cloud", rich in radioactive elements which have been reduced to the gaseous stage.

The polemics between scientific groups has also drifted into political circles. The Christian Democrat party organ *Il Popolo* writes today that the government "must go to all extremes to provide Parliament with all the data relating to the Chernobyl incident and on the situation of the nuclear sector in Italy and Europe."

These recent polemics have not divided public opinion on the opportunity of carrying out the proposed energy plan which calls for the construction of new nuclear power plants and continued use of existing ones. Following yesterday's cabinet meeting, Industry Minister Renato Altissimo said that "the energy plan will continue as set down by Parliament. The Chernobyl incident does not allow us to put our heads in the sand and security factors will of course be privileged."

Further on Gorbachev Message to Craxi on Chernobyl

AU081445 Rome ANSA in English 0851 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, May 7 — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev pledged to keep Italy, other countries and world public opinion up to date on work to eliminate the effects of the Chernobyl power-station disaster in a message to Italian Premier Bettino Craxi handed over in Tokyo, Craxi's office announced Wednesday as the prime minister returned to Italy from the seven-nation summit in the Japanese capital.

The message voiced "recognition for the feelings of solidarity" voiced by the Italian Government over the reactor melt-down. The Soviet Union, Gorbachev said, takes a "highly positive" view of the fact that Italian experts working in various parts of the Ukraine and Belorussia stayed at their jobs. The message described them as "controlling their emotion and continuing to work alongside their Soviet colleagues in the spirit of cooperation which has become traditional for our countries and people."

Soviet Freighters Isolated Due to Radioactivity

AU091454 Paris AFP in English 1452 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Taranto, Italy, May 9 (AFP) — A Soviet freighter has been isolated at Taranto, southern Italy, because of an excessive radioactivity rate, while a second Soviet ship which arrived Friday [9 May] was being checked, port sources said.

Both ships came from ports in the Black Sea a few hundred kilometres (miles) from the stricken Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Ukraine. The *Nikolay Martin* was refused the right to dock and isolated on Thursday after it was found to have a degree of radioactivity of between 0.4 and 0.5 millirems an hour, double the rate permitted under Italian law, Italian medical services said.

The ship was carrying 2,717 tons of steel sections to be processed in Italy. The second Soviet ship was the *Dimitriy Pozhorski*, port sources said.

Third Freighter Held

AU101622 Paris AFP in English 1203 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Taranto, Italy, May 10 (AFP) — A Singapore-registered freighter carrying Soviet steel was held on Saturday [10 May] along with two Soviet freighters in this southern Italian port because of possible radioactive contamination, officials said. The three ships sailed from the Black Sea with steel products destined for the state-owned Italsider steel plant here, they add.

Checks Thursday and Friday by port fire officials and a technican from the Italian Atomic Energy Commission showed that the two Soviet vessels, the *Nikolay Markin* [spelling as received] and the *Dmitriy Pozhorski*, had radioactivity of around 0.4 to 0.5 millirems per hour, peaking to 0.9. This compared with the maximum permitted under Italian law of 0.25 millirems per hour, they said. The Singaporean ship, the *Wien*, which came from Novorossiysk, will be submitted to the same check.

The crew of the three vessels, totalling less than 100 persons, have not been confined to ship, but none of them have gone ashore so far, officials said.

EEC Ban on Food Imports Rejected as 'Too Stringent'

NC110955 Paris AFP in English 0947 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Brussels, May 11 (AFP) — Italy has refused to ratify a European Economic Community ban on certain East European food imports, contrary to an official EEC announcement Saturday night that all 12 member-countries had approved the ban, Italian diplomats said here Sunday. The ban, which required a unanimous vote in order to come into force, is now due to be discussed further at a meeting of EEC foreign ministers here on Monday.

The Netherlands, currently presiding the EEC Council of Ministers, has informed other community members of the Italian decision overnight, the diplomats added.

It appears from earlier reports that Italy rejected the ban agreement because it believed appended norms for acceptable radioactivity in some vegetables traded within the EEC were too stringent. West Germany had contended Saturday that they were not strict enough.

The ban agreement was initiated by France last week partly to end protective restrictions imposed unilaterally by some EEC members, notably Italy and West Germany. It was to affect live sheep, goats, horses and donkeys, fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh water fish, fish eggs — including caviar — milk and dairy products, frogs' legs and snails.

TURKEY

Ministry Reports Radioactivity-Free Produce

TA081733 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] It has been announced that the level of radioactivity in Turkey has decreased to its normal state and that the meat, milk, water, fish, and fruit in the country are free of any radioactivity that might be damaging to human health. According to a Foreign Ministry announcement, as a result of work carried out throughout the country it has been determined that the meat, milk, water, fish, and fruit are free of radioactivity. The Foreign Ministry statement further adds that Turkish Atomic Energy Commission teams measured levels of radioactivity with some 2500 instruments up until yesterday. The statement notes that as a result of these measurements it has also been determined that the low-level radioactivity observed in a limited area around Edirne, which descended on the soil by means of rainfall, has lost its effectiveness.

UNITED KINGDOM

Ballet Troupe Cancels Moscow-Leningrad Tour

LD091256 Moscow TASS in English 1152 GMT 9 May 86

["Victims of Unworthy Propaganda Campaign" — TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 9 TASS — A guest tour of the English ballet troupe, the "London Festival Ballet", in Moscow and Leningrad has been sacrificed to an unworthy propaganda campaign, *SOVETSKAYA KULTURA* newspaper reports. The troupe's guest performances did not begin on May 5 as scheduled. On that day, during talks in the USSR Ministry of Culture, the British raised the question of a possibility of postponing the guest tour for a week. The Soviet side, notwithstanding great difficulties of organisational nature, agreed to the proposal in the name of helping the performers to restore a normal psychological attitude of mind disrupted by their being massively manipulated by the British propaganda machine. With the same end in view, British specialists were given an opportunity to measure radiation levels on trucks which brought the ballet troupe's requisite to the USSR. The trucks' route ran across the cities of Brest, Minsk, and Smolensk. The measurements showed: there is no danger.

But all that proved in vain, the newspaper goes on. The influence of British official circles, and the lies being poured down on the minds of British people proved stronger than objective data and common sense: the troupe has changed its original decision and will not come to the USSR.